



# Swordquest

1





# EARTHWORLD™

Come questing with bold siblings twain,  
Prime thieves of ravaged Earth;  
Next journey to the Fireworld,  
Land of volcanoes' birth.  
Waves without number—Water's realm—  
But 'ware of evils there;  
Last, ride the Air's winds heaven-high  
To claim a prize most rare.



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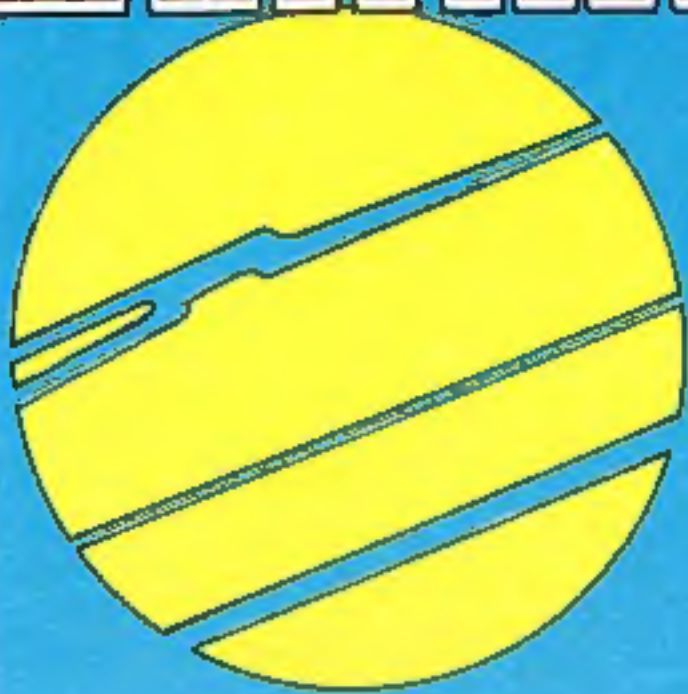
*The ultimate  
Search for  
the ultimate  
treasure!*





BOOK ONE

# EARTH WORLD!



BUT THERE IS *LIFE* AMONG  
THE ROOFTOPS OF THESE  
HUDDLED BUILDINGS...



...LIFE WHICH MOVES  
AS SILENTLY AS THE  
*SHADOWS* THEMSELVES.




OR NEARLY  
SO...

**SKATTECH**



TARRA-?





MEN CALL IT *DARKSPIRE CASTLE*, THEY WHO DARE SPEAK OF IT AT ALL.

LIKE A GREAT BLACK SPIDER IT BROODS ATOP *MOUNT MANDRAGON*, HIGH ABOVE THE MEDIEVAL CITY WHOSE LESSER BUILDINGS DOT THE THREE SEAWARD SIDES OF THE MASSIVE PEAK.

WHO ELSE, DEAR BROTHER?

I FOLLOWED YOU AFTER YOU SLIPPED OUT OF OUR ROOM.

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED YOU'D COME HERE.

A THIEF HAS TO EAT, TARRA. BUT EATING ISN'T ALL YOU'VE GOT ON YOUR MIND, IS IT, TORR?

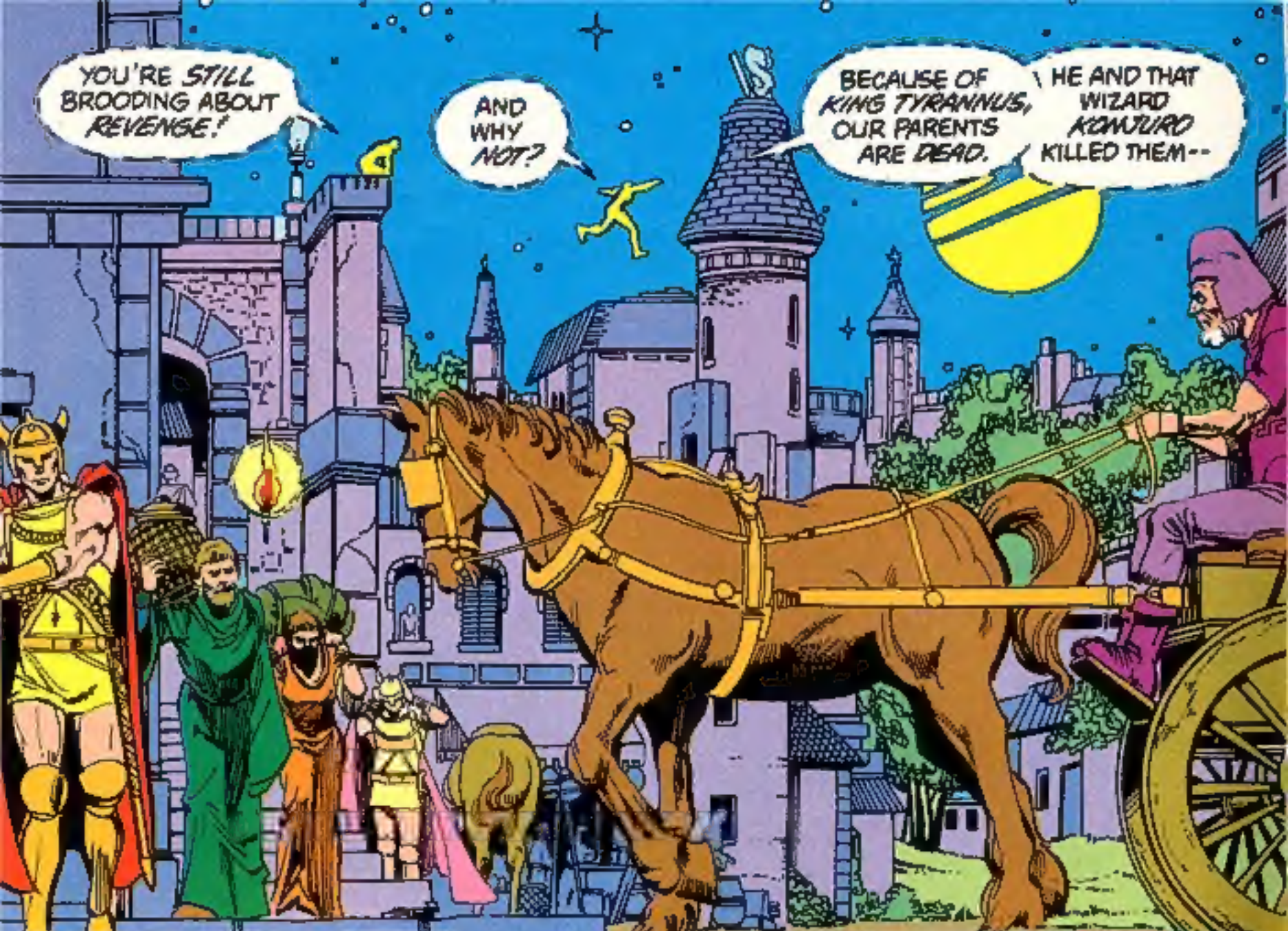


YOU'RE STILL  
BROODING ABOUT  
REVENGE!

AND  
WHY  
NOT?

BECAUSE OF  
KING TYRANNUS,  
OUR PARENTS  
ARE DEAD.

HE AND THAT  
WIZARD  
KONJURO  
KILLED THEM--



--AS SURELY  
AS IF THEY'D  
DONE THE DEED  
THEMSELVES!

GOOD  
THIEVES DON'T  
BEAR GRUDGES,  
TORR!

AS FOR TYRANNUS, HIS  
CASTLE IS A FORTRESS--  
NOT EVEN AN EXPERIENCED  
THIEF WOULD TRY TO STEAL  
INSIDE DARKSPIRE!

NOT WHEN THE  
SORCERER  
KONJURO'S  
KEEP STANDS  
UNGUARDED ON  
THE GRAY SEA'S  
SHORE!

NOR DO  
THEY LEAP  
WHEN THEY  
CAN WALK!

I'VE GOT  
MORE EXPERIENCE  
THAN YOU THINK,  
SISTER--

--AND I'M NOT  
PLANNING TO  
STEAL FROM  
TYRANNUS.

KONJURO?

YOU ARE  
MAD!





FOR AN INSTANT, THEIR EYES LOCK ON THAT LONELY TOWER...

...AND IT'S AS IF AN UNSUSPECTED DAM WERE OPENED IN THEIR HEARTS, FLOODING THEM WITH EMOTION, AS THEY RECALL THE STORY OF THEIR ORPHANING...

THEIR FATHER WAS A MIGHTY WARRIOR NAMED TARR, A FAITHFUL MARSHAL OF OLD KING REULLO'S ARMY...

...AND PROUD AS HE WAS OF HIS MANY VICTORIES ON THE BATTLEFIELD, HIS PROUDEST MOMENT CAME ON THE DAWN OF THE LAST DAY OF HIS FINAL CAMPAIGN...

TWO SONS, MY LADY?

YOU'VE GIVEN ME TWO SONS TO CARRY FORTH MY NAME?

BETTER THAN THAT, MY LORD.

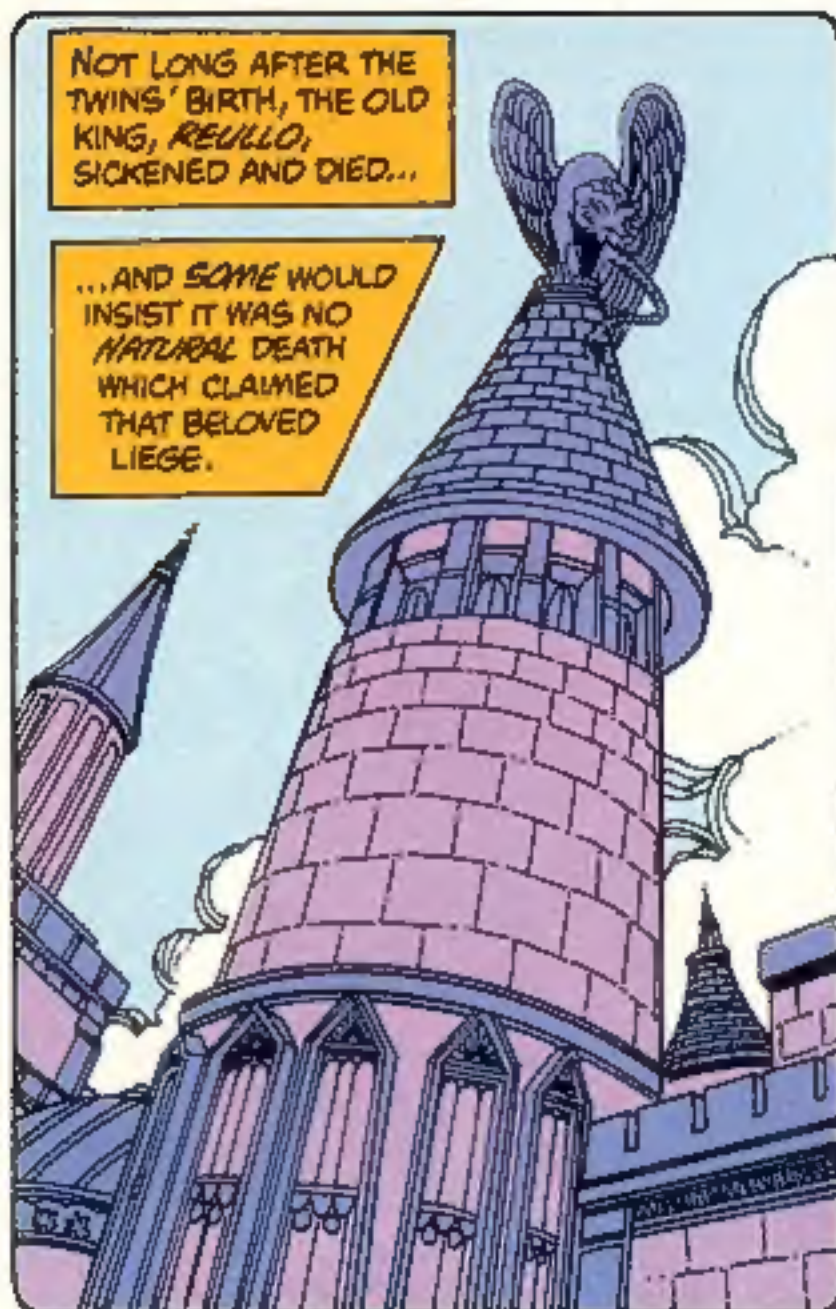
SO THEY ARE.

WHAT SHALL WE NAME THEM, WIFE?

WELL, MY LORD, I'VE BEEN THINKING...

A SON AND A DAUGHTER, AS ALIKE AS TWO FLOWERS FROM THE SAME CUTTING!





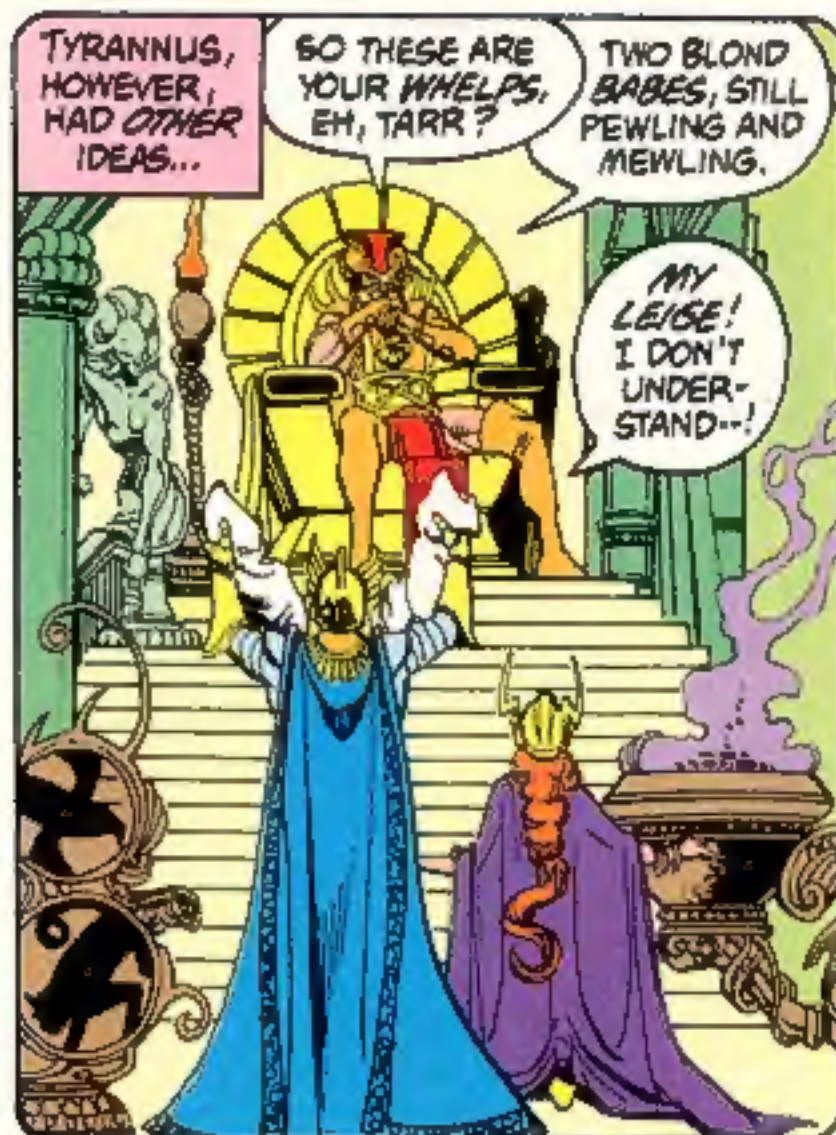
NOT LONG AFTER THE TWINS' BIRTH, THE OLD KING, REULLO, SICKENED AND DIED...

...AND SOME WOULD INSIST IT WAS NO NATURAL DEATH WHICH CLAIMED THAT BELOVED LIEGE.



BEFORE THE TURNING OF THE NEW MOON, LORD TARR AND HIS WIFE, LADY WYLA, WERE SUMMONED TO AN AUDIENCE WITH THE NEW KING, REULLO'S DARK-BROWED SON, TYRANNUS.

THEY WENT HAPPILY, BELIEVING THEIR NEWBORNS WERE TO RECEIVE THE KING'S BLESSING.



TYRANNUS, HOWEVER, HAD OTHER IDEAS...

SO THESE ARE YOUR WHELPS, EH, TARR?

TWO BLOND BABES, STILL PEWLING AND MEWLING.

MY LEIGE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND--!



DO YOU UNDERSTAND TREACHERY, TARR?

NOT TREACHERY HERE AND NOW, BUT TREACHERY TO COME?

TREACHERY AS YET UNBORN-- OR SHOULD I SAY, NEWBORN?



LAST NIGHT, I RECEIVED  
A WARNING, A PROPHECY,  
IF YOU WILL, FROM A MAN  
STEEPED IN THE WISDOM  
OF DARK MAGIC!

HIS WORDS:

"BEWARE THE CHILDREN  
WITH HAIR OF GOLD--  
TWO THEY ARE, BORN THE  
SON AND DAUGHTER OF  
A NOBLE WARRIOR!"

"WHEN THOU ART OLD  
AND FEEBLE, THEY  
SHALL CLAIM THY  
THRONE, WITH A  
SWORD SHINING  
BRIGHTLY AS  
SUMMER'S SUN!"

WHAT  
WOULD YOU  
CALL THIS,  
TARR--

--IF NOT  
TREACHERY  
MOST FOUL!

YOUR MAJESTY  
CANNOT BE  
SERIOUS!

SUCH PROPHECY  
IS MADNESS!

WHO  
SPEAKS  
THUS?

LET HIM  
SHOW HIMSELF,  
IF HE DARE!









DEATH TO  
TYRANNUS!

DEATH TO  
THE KING!

HE  
ALMOST  
REACHED  
THE  
THRONE

ALMOST,  
BUT NOT  
QUITE!

RUN,  
WYLA!

FOR THE  
LOVE OF OUR  
CHILDREN--

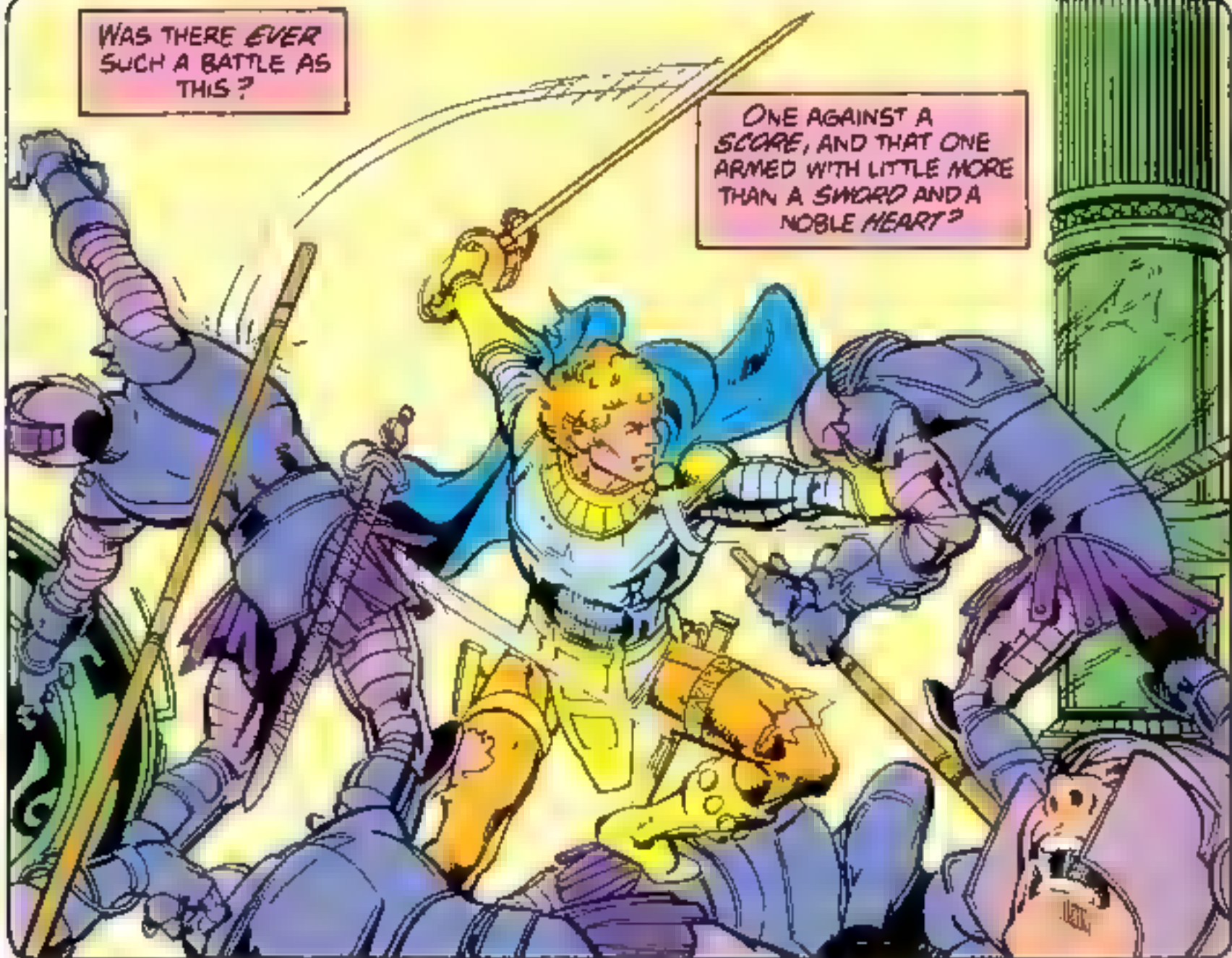
--RUN!--





WAS THERE EVER  
SUCH A BATTLE AS  
THIS?

ONE AGAINST A  
SCORE, AND THAT ONE  
ARMED WITH LITTLE MORE  
THAN A SWORD AND A  
NOBLE HEART?



WIZARD, DO  
SOMETHING!

OF ALL MY GUARDS,  
ONLY THESE COULD I  
TRUST WITH SUCH A  
DEED!

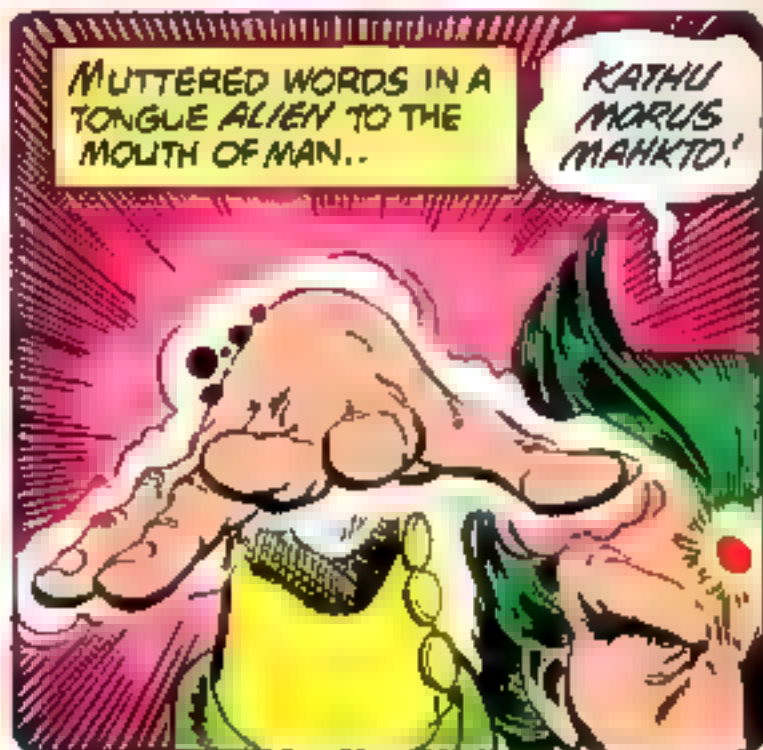
IF HE  
GETS  
PAST  
THEM--



HE  
SHALL  
NOT

MUTTERED WORDS IN A  
TONGUE ALIEN TO THE  
MOUTH OF MAN--

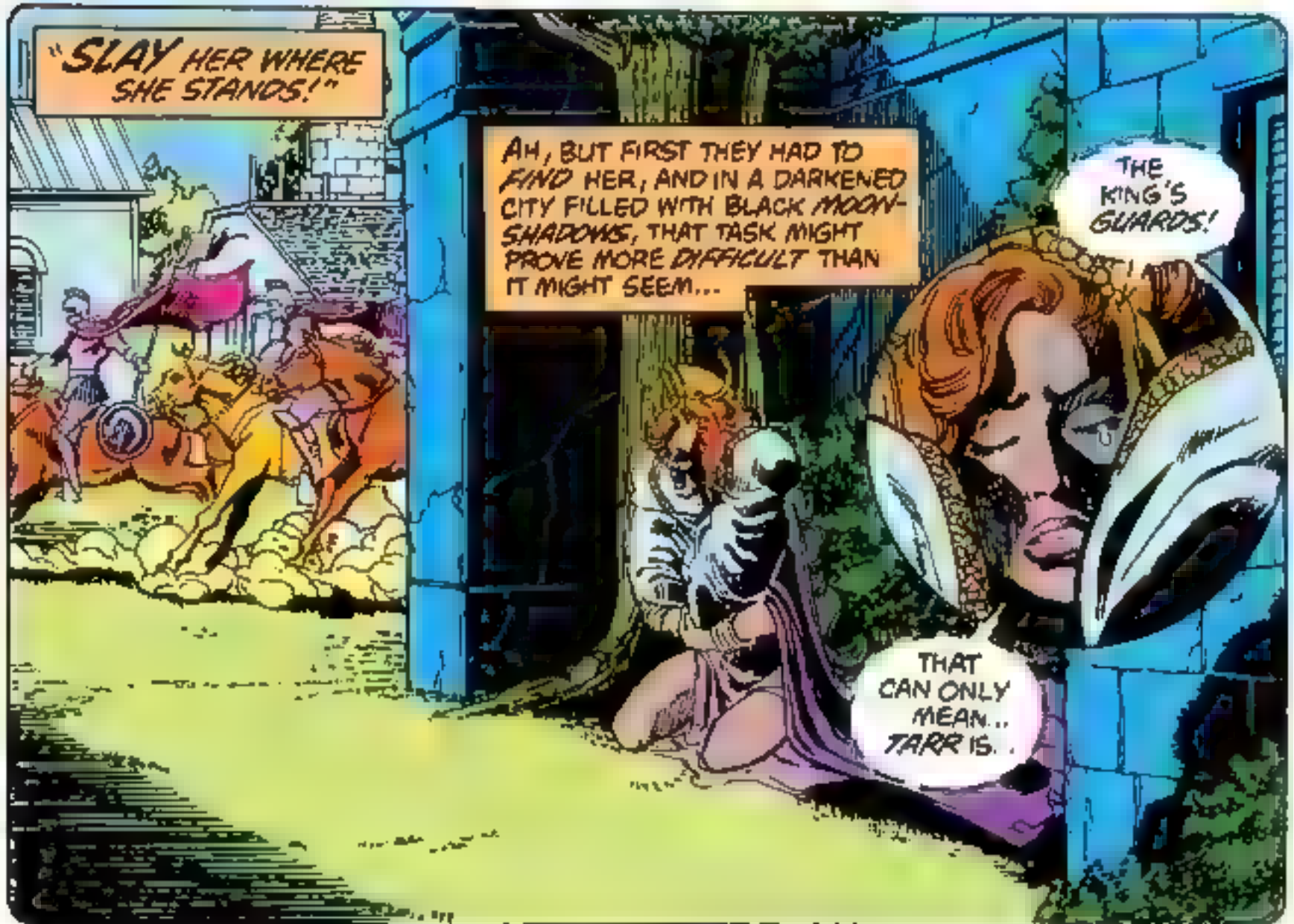
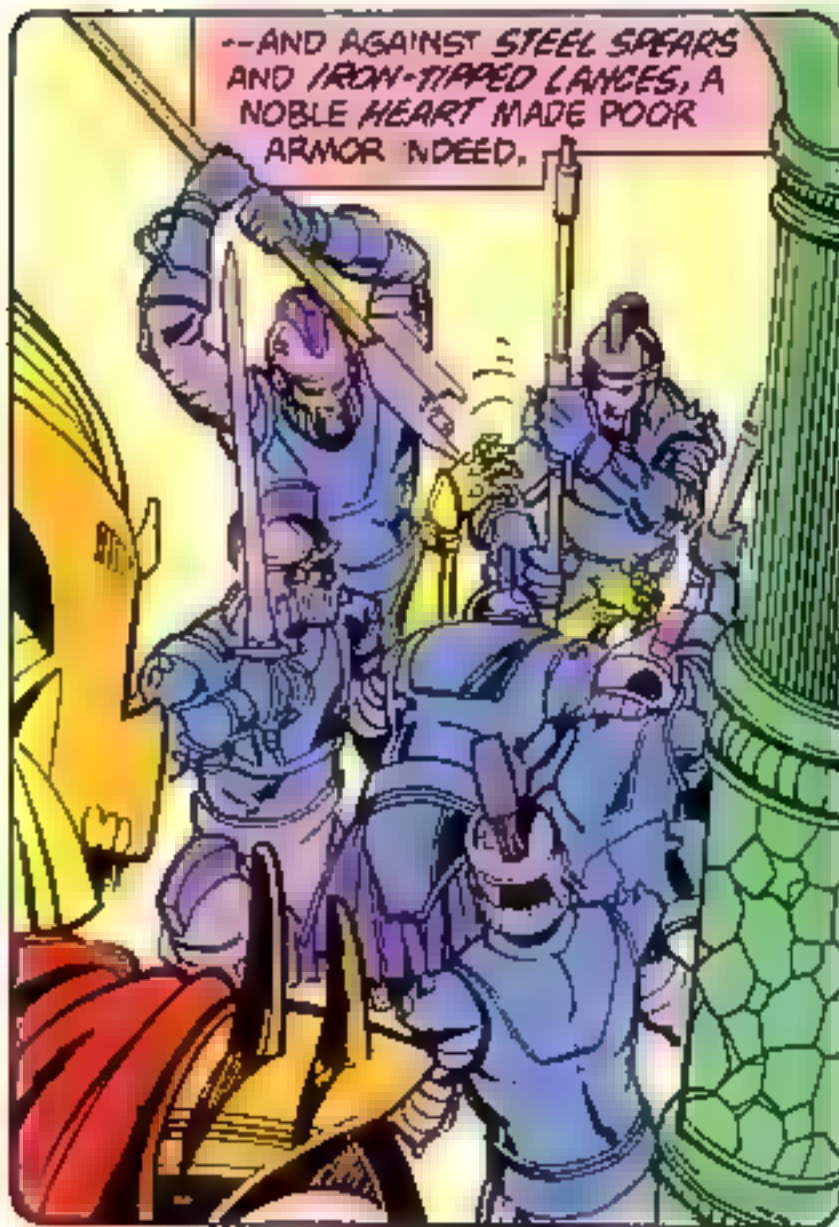
KATHU  
MORUS  
MAHKTO!



--AND THEN, HE HAD  
NOT EVEN THE SWORD  
WITH WHICH TO  
DEFEND HIMSELF--









SHE CHOKED BACK A SOB, THIS WAS NO TIME FOR TEARS.

AS THE CHATTER OF HORSEHOoves BEAT A HUNTER'S MARCH ON THE COBBLES OF THE CITY, GROWING FAINT AND LOUD BY TURNS, SHE LET MEMORY GUIDE HER TO A SMALL HOUSE JUST INSIDE THE CITY'S WALLS...



FREEMAN GARTH, YOU WERE ONCE MY HUSBAND'S FAITHFUL SCOUT.

ARE YOU FAITHFUL STILL?

EH? 'PON MY SOUL, IT'S LADY WYLA!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE SEEN HERE, MILADY, NOT IN THE HOUSE OF A THIEF!

LET HER IN, GARTH-- CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S TERRIFIED?

IT'S YOU WHO SHOULDN'T BE SEEN WITH ME, FREEMAN. LISTEN...

WORDS TUMBLED OUT, AND NOW THE TEARS COULD NOT BE HELD BACK...

MILORD TARR KILLED?

STAY, MILADY, AND I'LL GET MY DASSER--

I DON'T THINK SHE CAME HERE SEEKING THAT KIND OF HELP, HUSBAND.



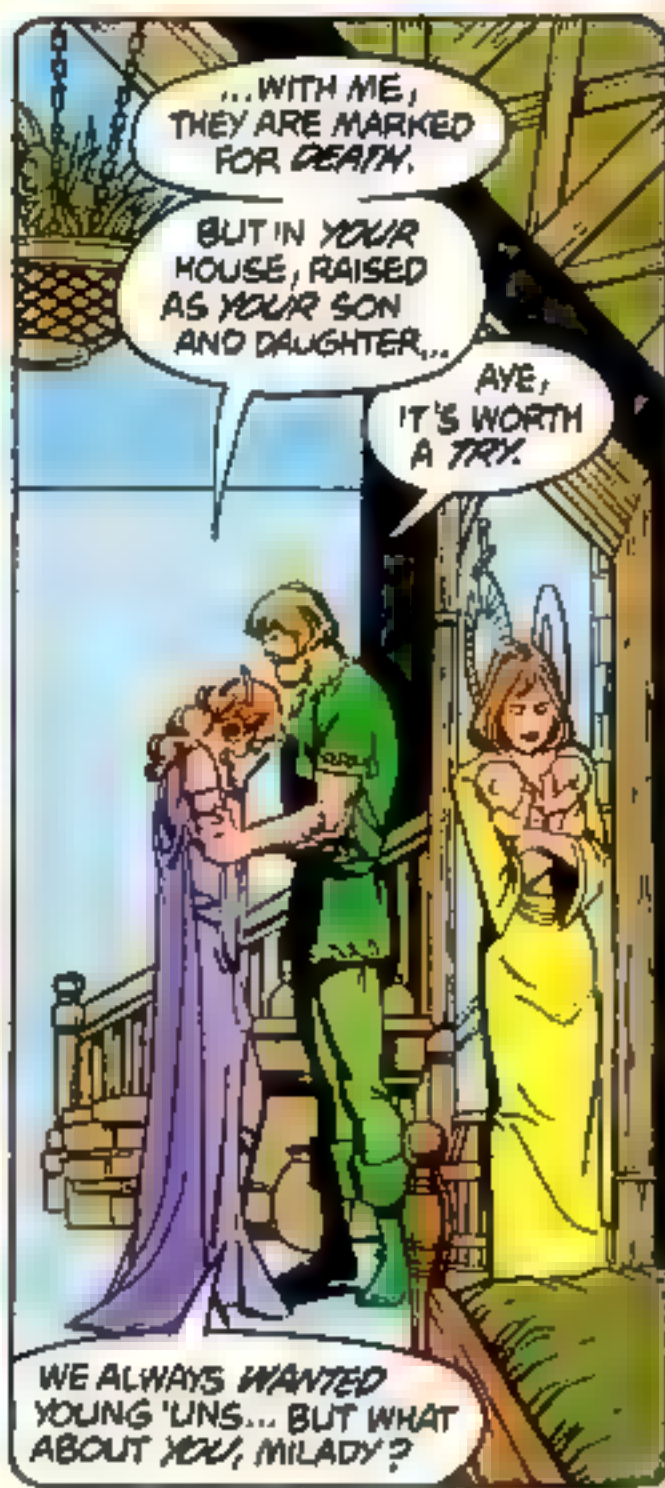
IT'S THE CHILDREN... ISN'T IT, MILADY?

YES...

...WITH ME, THEY ARE MARKED FOR DEATH.

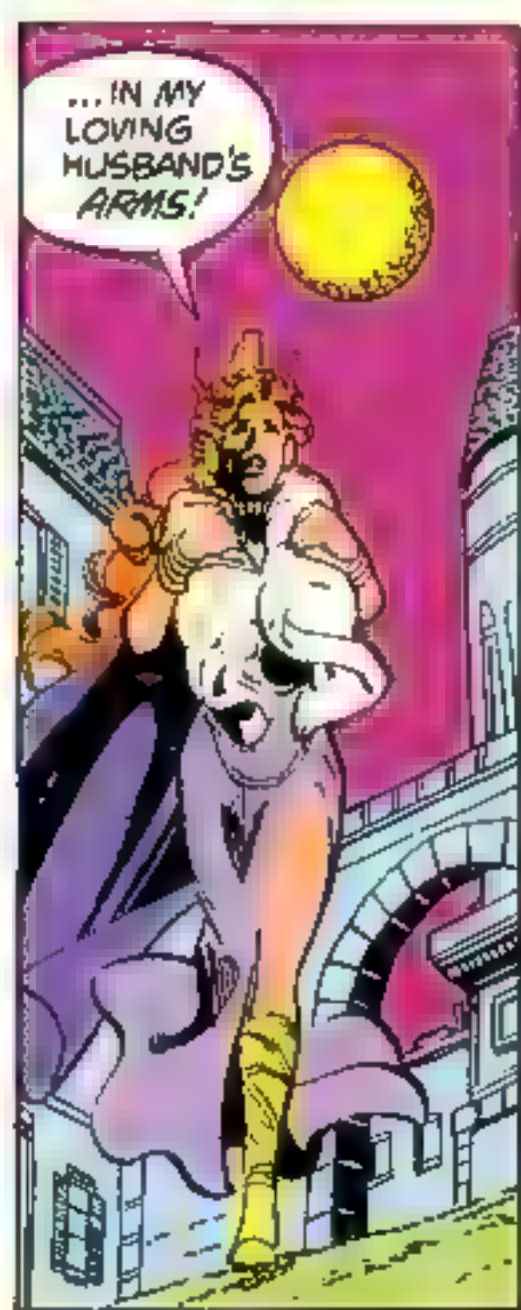
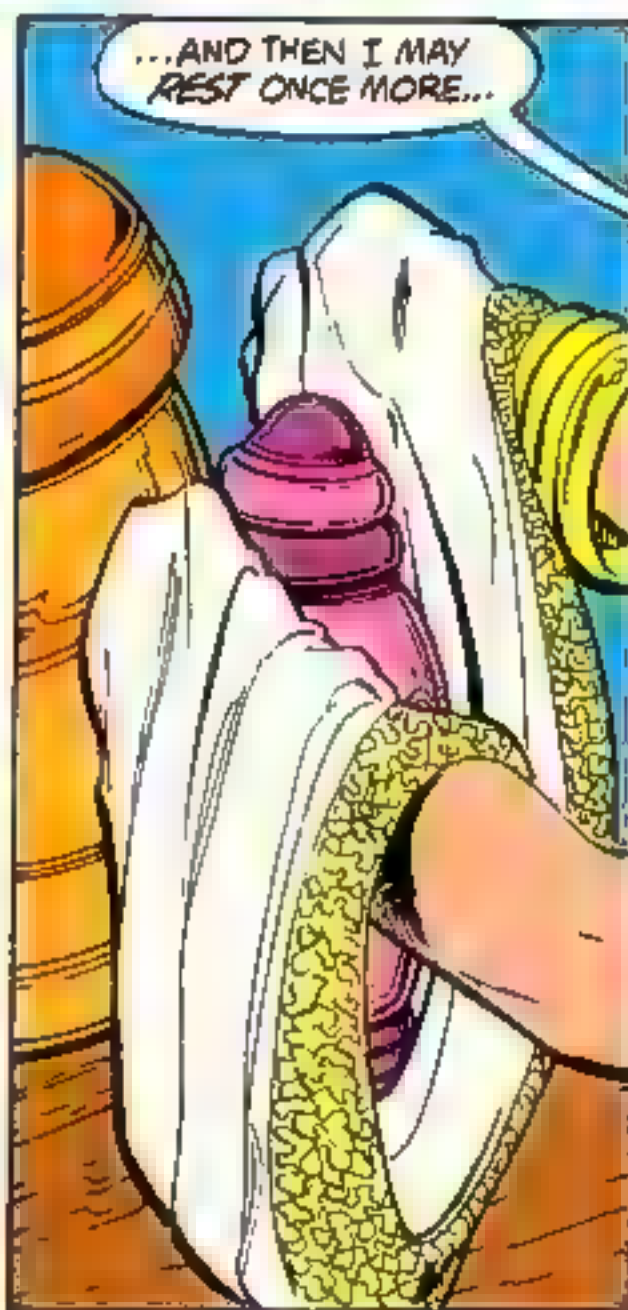
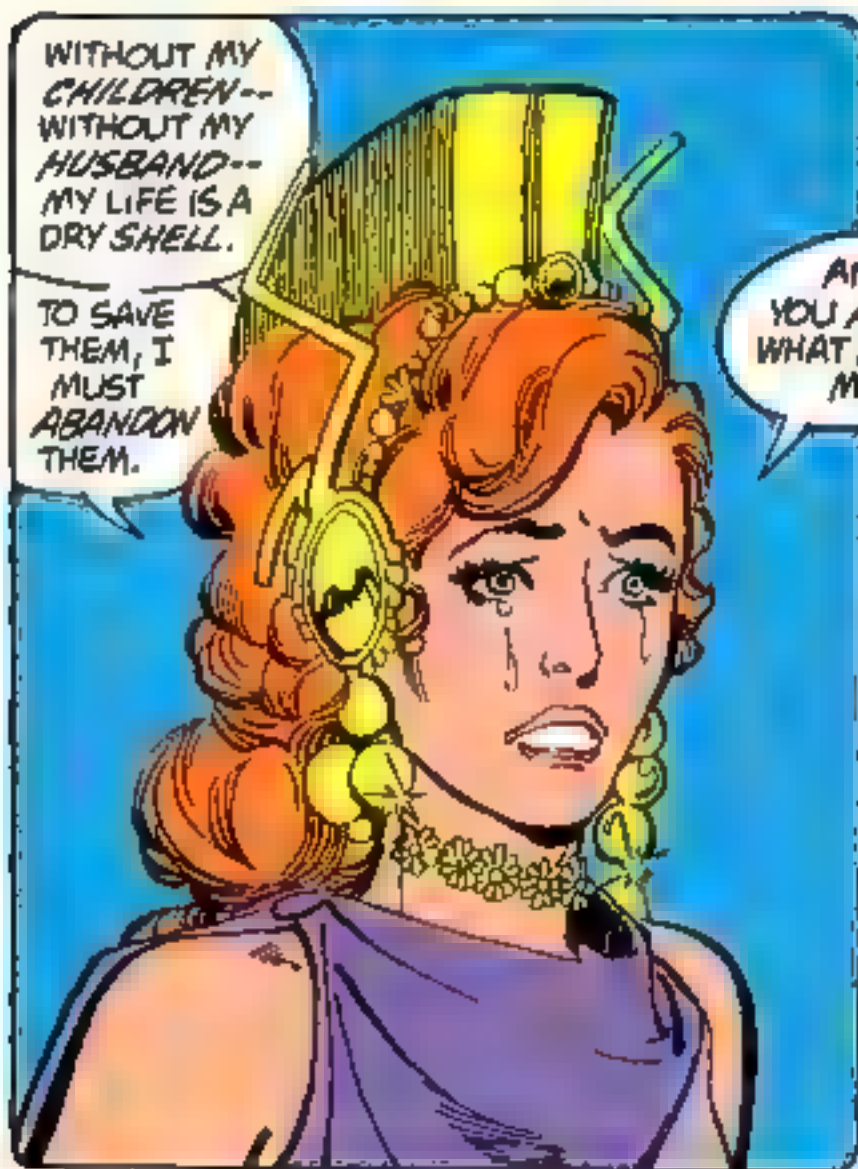
BUT IN YOUR HOUSE, RAISED AS YOUR SON AND DAUGHTER...

AYE, IT'S WORTH A TRY.

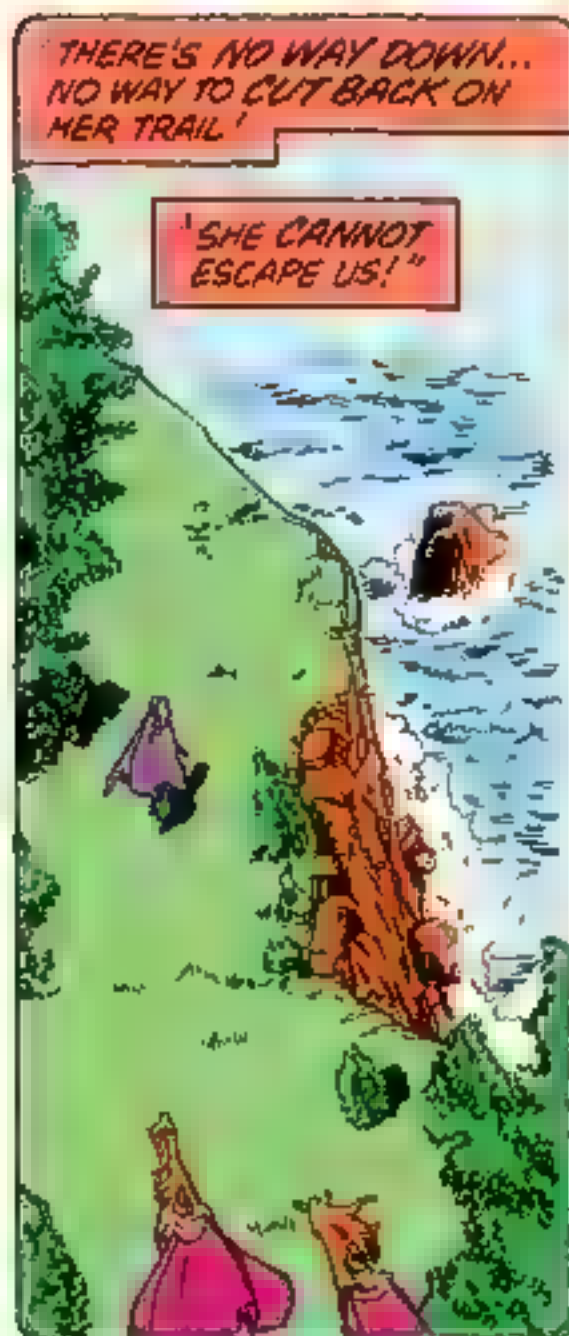
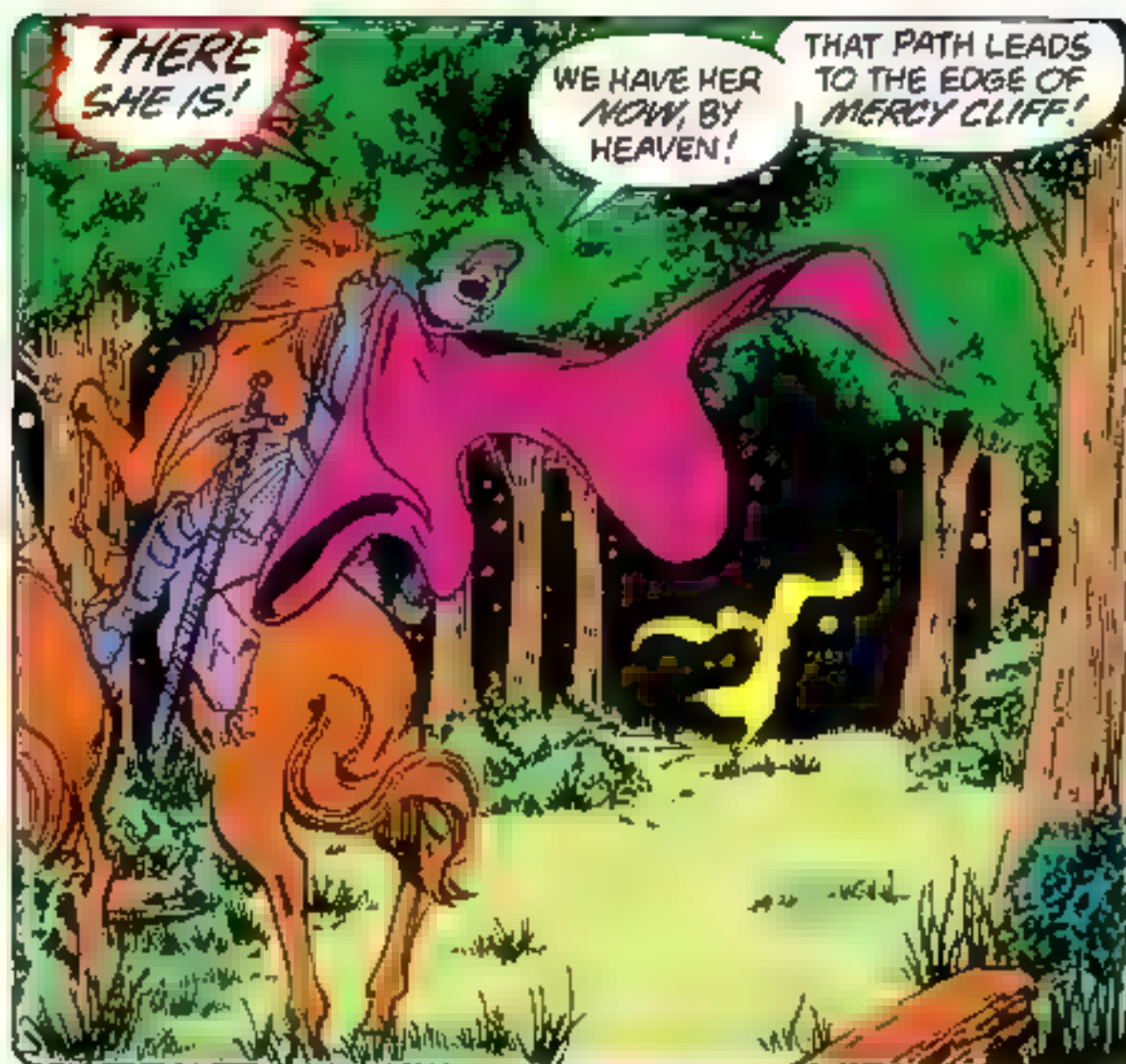


WE ALWAYS WANTED YOUNG 'UNS... BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, MILADY?











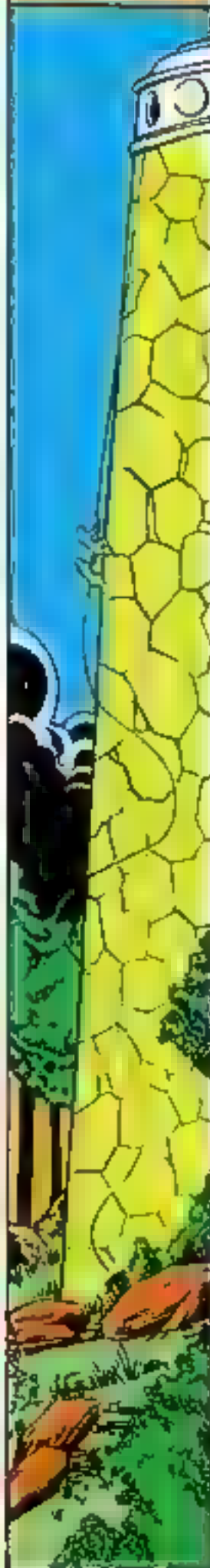
MOTHER AND CHILDREN WERE REPORTED DEAD, THEIR BODIES CLAIMED BY A GREEDY SEA.

SAFE, PROTECTED BY ANONYMITY THE TWINS GREW AND LEARNED; AND, BY A TWISTING OF FATE, BECAME THIEVES TO SURVIVE, WHEN THEIR FOSTER-PARENTS DIED...



NOW  
MEMORY  
FADES...

AND THEY TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS, SUCH AS THE SCALING OF THE WIZARD'S "IMPREGNABLE" TOWER...



AN OPENING IN THE TOWER'S CROWN LEADS DOWN INTO A DARKNESS MADE LIGHTER BY A FAINT GLIMMERING...

PSST, TORR!

CAN YOU  
SEE  
ANYTHING?



BRACE  
YOURSELF,  
SISTER...

...IT'S A TREASURE HOUSE!

THAT DARK WIZARD MUST HAVE COLLECTED A FORTUNE FROM THE KING FOR HIS COUNSELING ALL THESE YEARS!

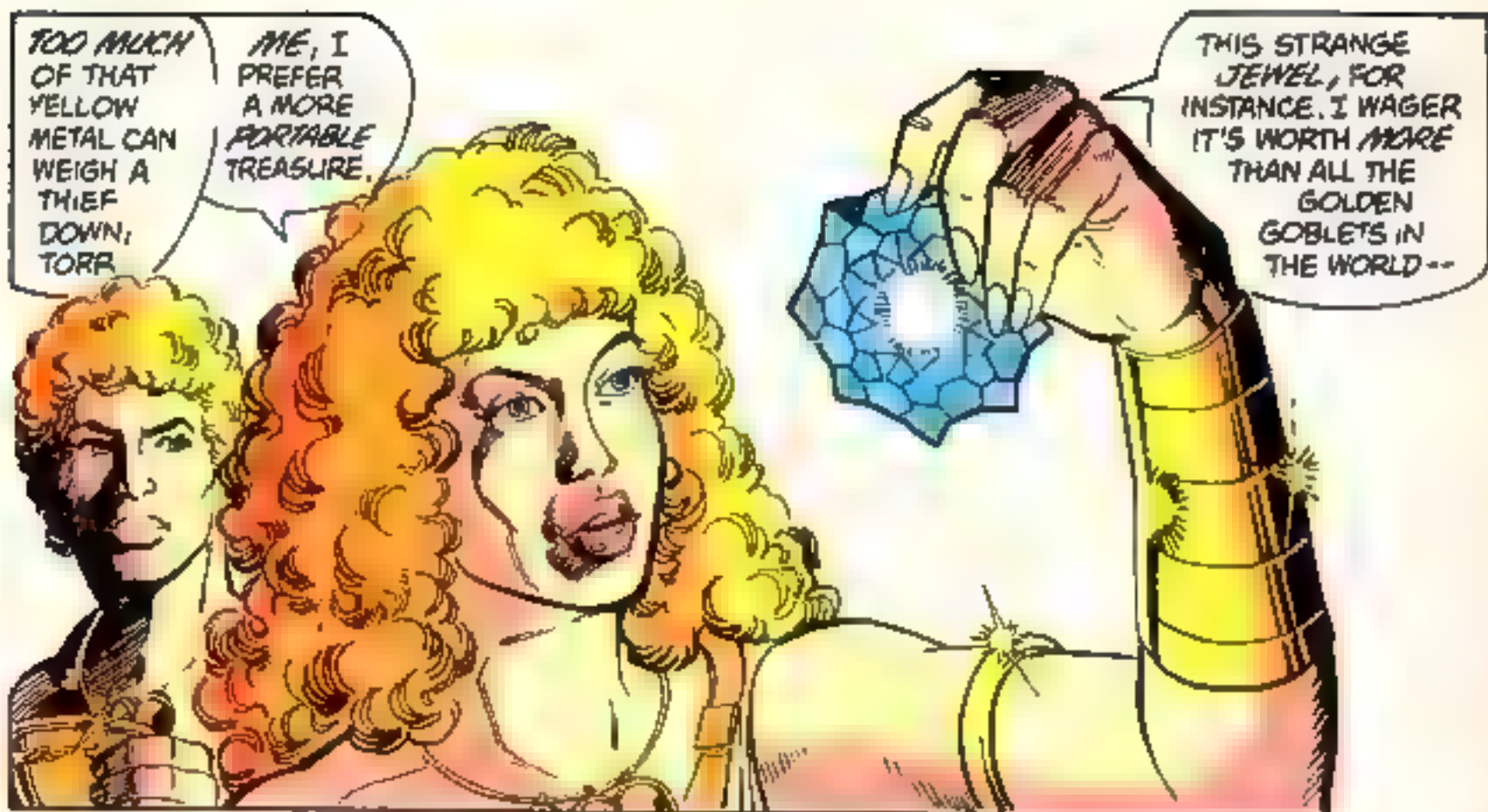
WE'RE  
RICH!



WHY, THERE'S GOLD ENOUGH HERE TO BUY US A KINGDOM OF OUR OWN, IF WE WANTED...



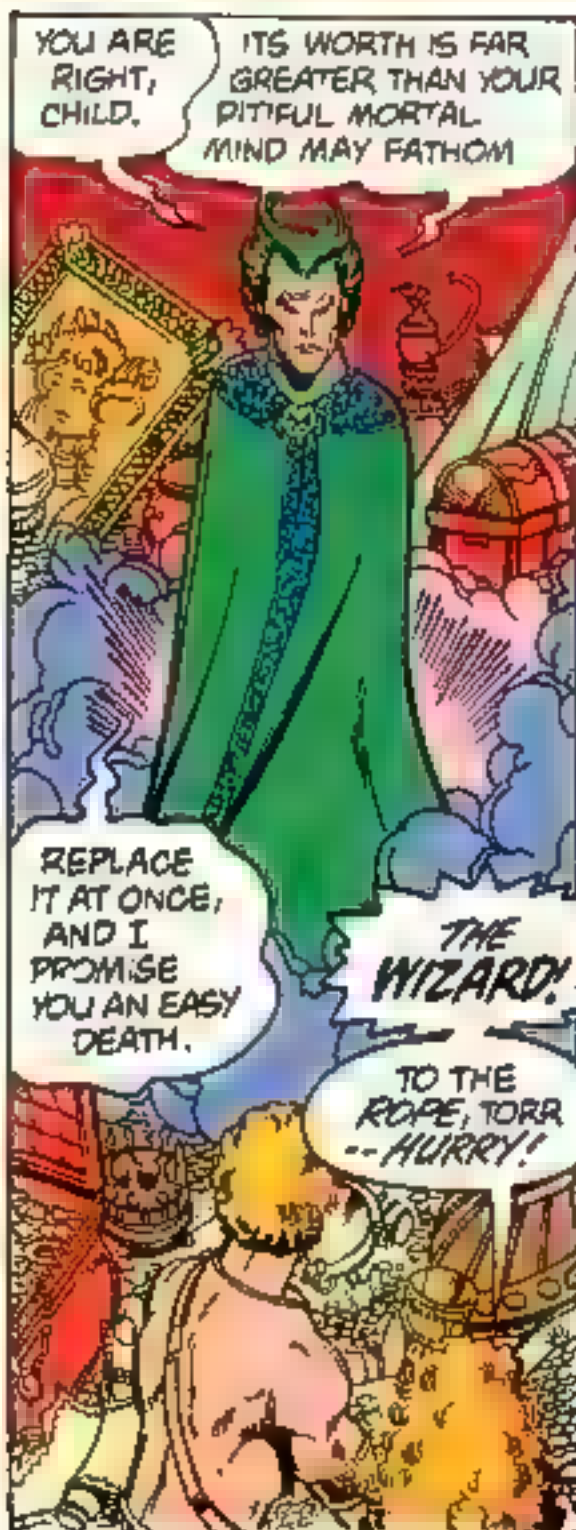




TOO MUCH  
OF THAT  
YELLOW  
METAL CAN  
WEIGH A  
THIEF  
DOWN,  
TORR

ME, I  
PREFER  
A MORE  
PORTABLE  
TREASURE.

THIS STRANGE  
JEWEL, FOR  
INSTANCE. I WAGER  
IT'S WORTH MORE  
THAN ALL THE  
GOLDEN  
GOBLET'S IN  
THE WORLD--



YOU ARE  
RIGHT,  
CHILD.

ITS WORTH IS FAR  
GREATER THAN YOUR  
PITIFUL MORTAL  
MIND MAY FATHOM

REPLACE  
IT AT ONCE,  
AND I  
PROMISE  
YOU AN EASY  
DEATH.

THE  
WIZARD!

TO THE  
ROPE, TORR  
--HURRY!



"TORR"?

BY THE SEVEN  
HELLS, IS IT  
POSSIBLE?

THEY  
YET  
LIVE!



AYE, BUT  
NOT FOR  
LONG...

WHY  
DON'T  
WE KILL  
HIM?

WHY ARE  
WE  
FLEEING?

IF YOU  
WANT TO  
KNOW WHY,  
LOOK UP--

--BUT  
DON'T STOP  
RUNNING!



IT LOOMS OUT OF THE  
STARRY SKY, AT FIRST SO  
DISTANT IT SEEMS NO LARGER  
THAN A SMALL BIRD...

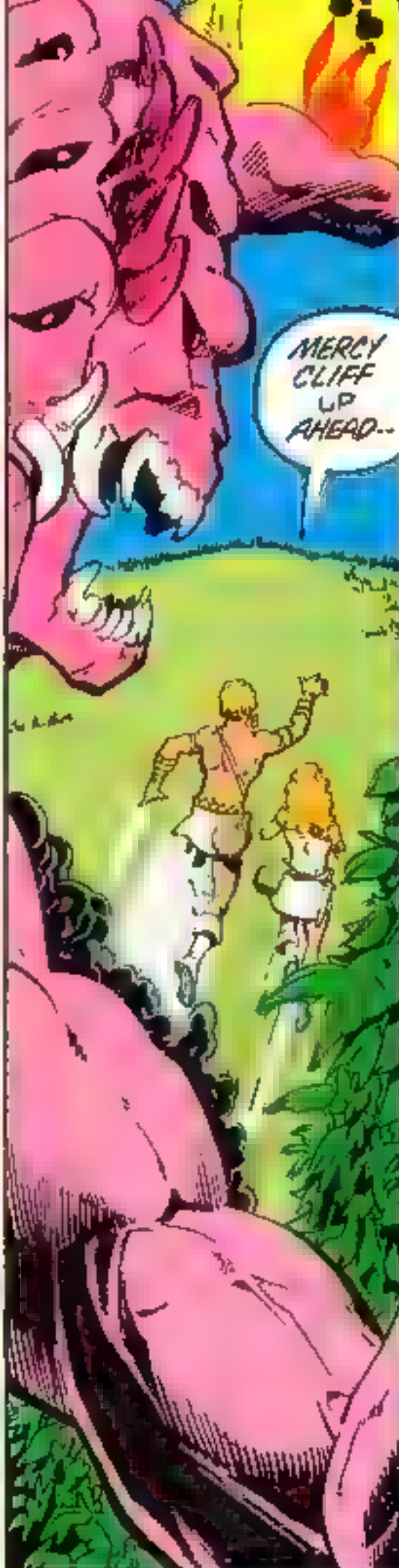
... BUT AS IT RAPIDLY  
CLOSES IN, ITS TRUE  
SIZE BECOMES  
APPARENT...

RRRR



...AND TORR  
NO LONGER QUESTIONS THE  
WISDOM OF FLIGHT!

RAARR



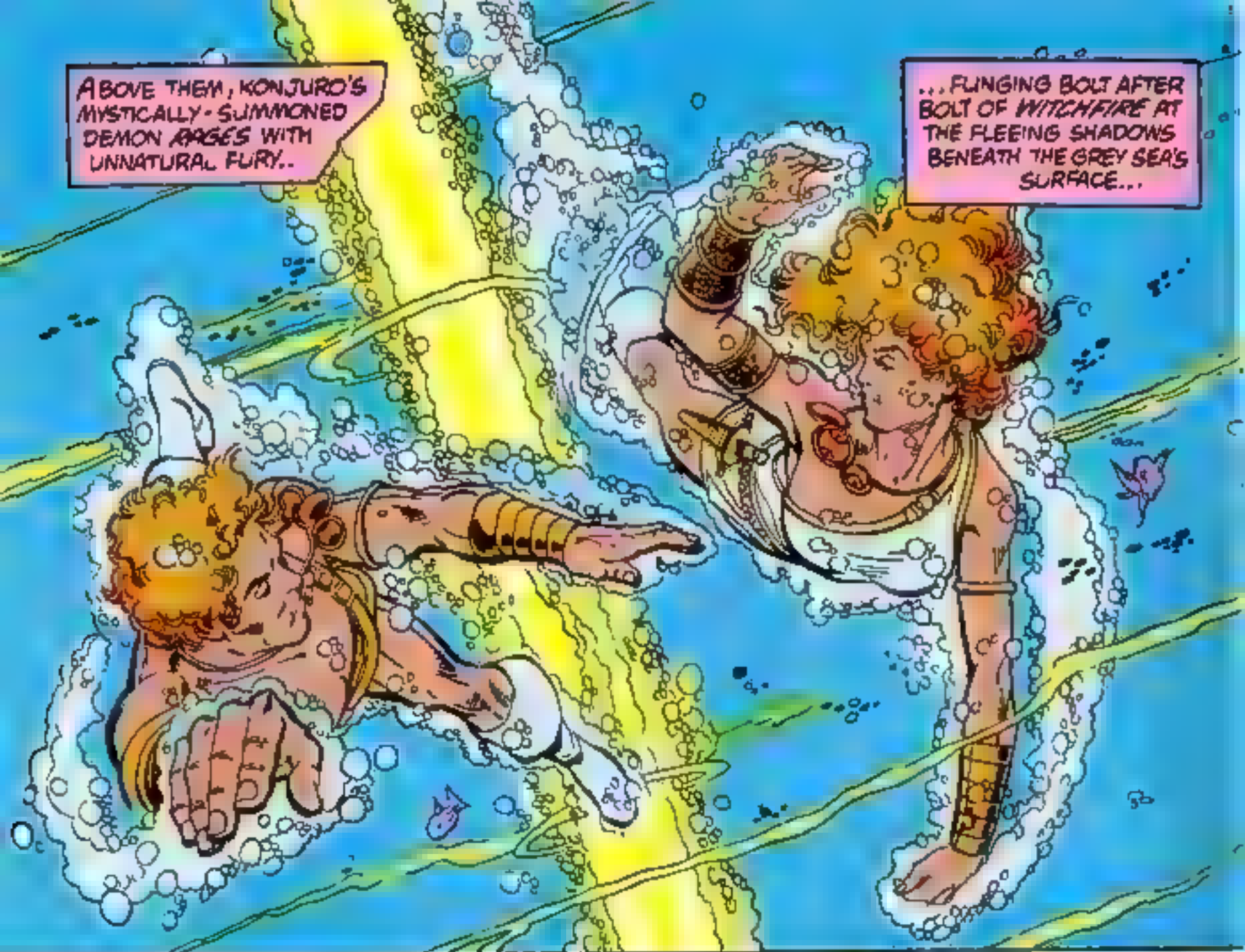
JUMP!





ABOVE THEM, KONJURO'S  
MYSTICALLY-SUMMONED  
DEMON RAGES WITH  
UNNATURAL FURY..

...FLINGING BOLT AFTER  
BOLT OF WITCHFIRE AT  
THE FLEEING SHADOWS  
BENEATH THE GREY SEA'S  
SURFACE...



BUT, THE TROUBLE  
WITH CHASING  
SHADOWS--

--IS THAT YOUR  
TRUE TARGETS  
OFTEN SLIP AWAY..

!GASP!... FEEL  
LIKE MY BRAIN'S  
ABOUT TO  
BURST...!

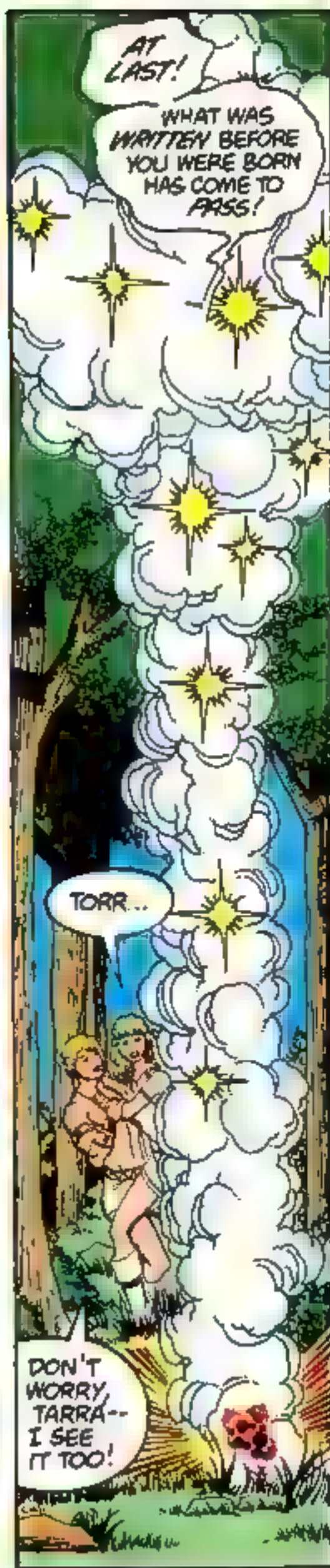
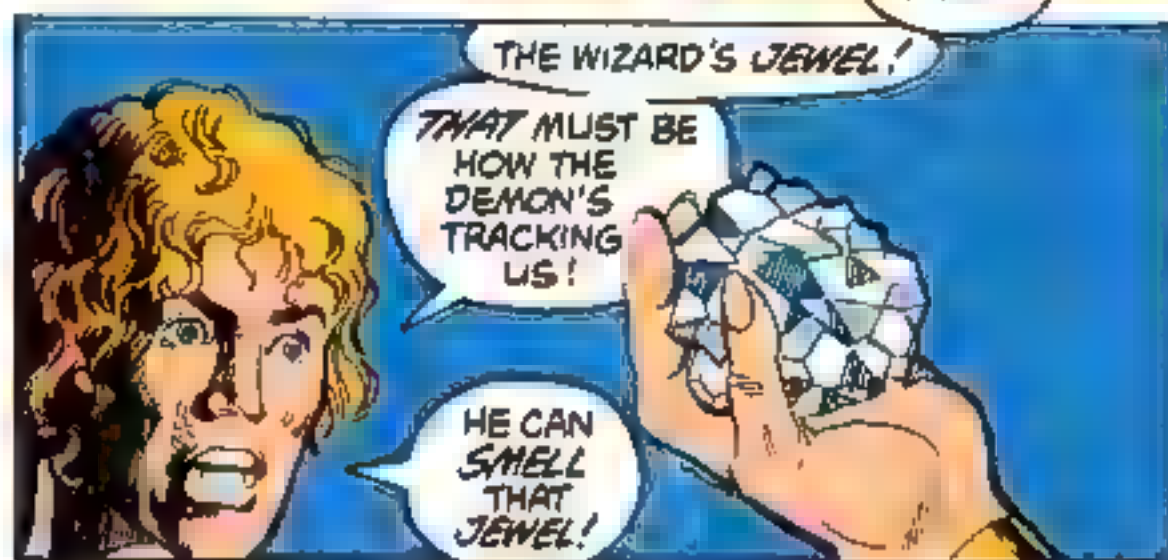
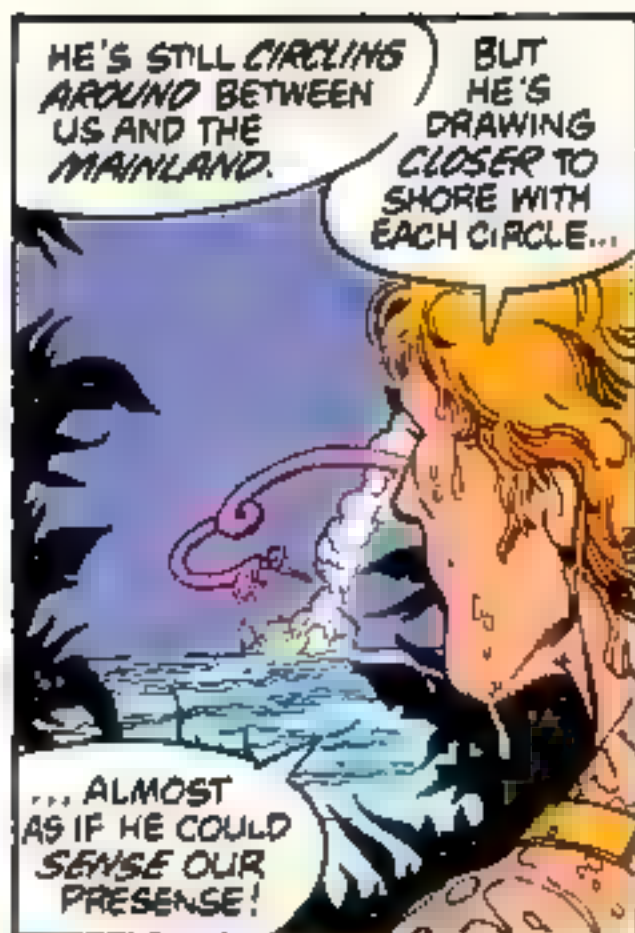
ARE YOU  
ALL  
RIGHT?

I'LL  
LIVE.


KONJURO'S  
DEMON...?











W-WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
GOING TO DO  
TO US?

ONCE, WE HAD  
HUMAN NAMES,  
EVEN AS YOU.

BUT THAT WAS  
BEFORE OUR  
TRANSFIGURATION  
TO A HIGHER  
STAGE OF SENTIENT  
LIFE.

YOU MAY CALL US  
MENTORR AND MENTARRA,  
AS DID KING RUELLO WHEN  
WE WERE HIS MOST  
RESPECTED COUNSELORS--  
DECADES PAST, BEFORE  
THE BLACK WIZARD KOWURO  
DID IMPRISON US IN YONDER  
SHATTERED JEWEL!

BUT IT IS  
NOT OF THIS  
WE WISH TO  
SPEAK...

RATHER, WE WOULD  
TELL YOU OF YOUR DESTINY--  
A DESTINY THAT WILL TAKE  
YOU ACROSS FOUR  
WORLDS!





**REVENGE!**

YOU'RE  
TALKING ABOUT  
REVENGE AGAINST  
TYRANNUS  
AND THE  
WIZARD!

SURMOUNTING  
THESE CHALLENGES  
WILL MAKE YOU  
STRONGER, WISER,  
MORE COURAGEOUS--

--AND IN THE  
END, WILL GIVE  
YOU YOUR  
HEART'S  
DESIRE!

A WORLD OF  
EARTH SPIRITS...  
A WORLD OF FIRE...  
A WORLD OF WATER  
SPRITES... AND  
LAST, A WORLD OF  
AIR!

ON EACH WORLD,  
YOU WILL ENCOUNTER  
A CHALLENGE--  
PERHAPS MORE  
THAN ONE!



THESE  
ARE YOUR  
WORDS,  
NOT OURS.

TO ACHIEVE  
YOUR GOAL,  
YOU MUST BE  
WILLING TO  
LEARN WHAT  
EACH WORLD CAN  
TEACH YOU.

YOU MUST HAVE  
OPEN MINDS,  
AND YES, OPEN  
HEARTS AS WELL.

YOU MUST PUT  
ASIDE YOUR ANGER  
AND YOUR HATE.

YOU MUST LEARN  
TO THINK BEFORE  
ACTING.

YOU MUST LEARN  
TO JUDGE BEFORE  
RESPONDING

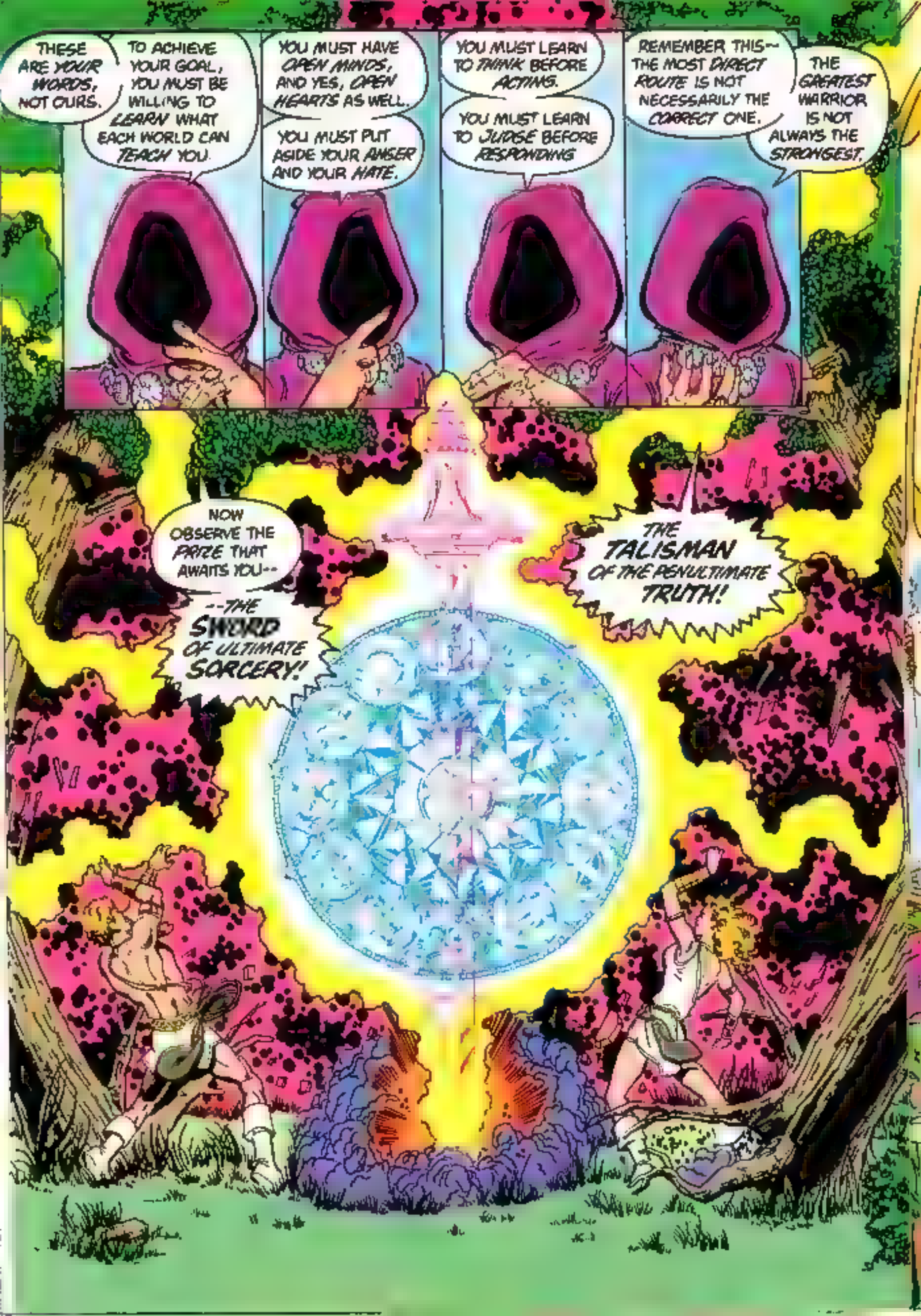
REMEMBER THIS--  
THE MOST DIRECT  
ROUTE IS NOT  
NECESSARILY THE  
CORRECT ONE.

THE  
GREATEST  
WARRIOR  
IS NOT  
ALWAYS THE  
STRONGEST.

NOW  
OBSERVE THE  
PRIZE THAT  
AWAITS YOU--

--THE  
SWORD  
OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY!

THE  
TALISMAN  
OF THE PENULTIMATE  
TRUTH!





THUNDER ROCKS THE  
QUIET GLADE, AND WHEN  
IT PASSES, AND THE  
SMOKE LIFTS TWISTING  
INTO THE TWILIGHT SKY.

**A PIT!**

THIS  
WASN'T  
HERE A  
MOMENT  
AGO!

IT LOOKS  
DEEP ENOUGH  
TO REACH THE  
VERY HEART  
OF THE  
WORLD!

WISE WORDS, TORR,  
AND TRUER THAN  
YOU KNOW.

DESCEND, AND YOU  
WILL ENTER THE  
FIRST OF THE FOUR  
WORLDS YOU MUST  
CONQUER...  
EARTHWORLD!

OBSERVE...  
LEARN... AND  
TRIUMPH!

THEY'RE  
FADING  
AWAY!

LET  
THEM.

THEY'VE  
TOLD US  
ALL WE NEED  
TO KNOW

HAVE  
THEY?

I WISH I  
WAS AS SURE  
AS YOU ARE,  
TORR.

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
AFRAID  
OF?



WELL, FOR  
ONE THING--  
THAT!

THE SHAFT ENDS  
OVER SOME KIND OF  
CIRCULAR DOME--WITH  
TWELVE CHAMBERS  
AROUND THE OUTSIDE  
RING!

THE SWORD  
OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY MUST BE  
IN ONE OF THOSE  
CHAMBERS--THAT'S  
OBVIOUS!

FINDING  
IT IS JUST A  
PROCESS OF  
ELIMINATION!

CHILD'S  
PLAY!

THINK YOU SO,  
YELLOW-HAIRED  
WHELP?

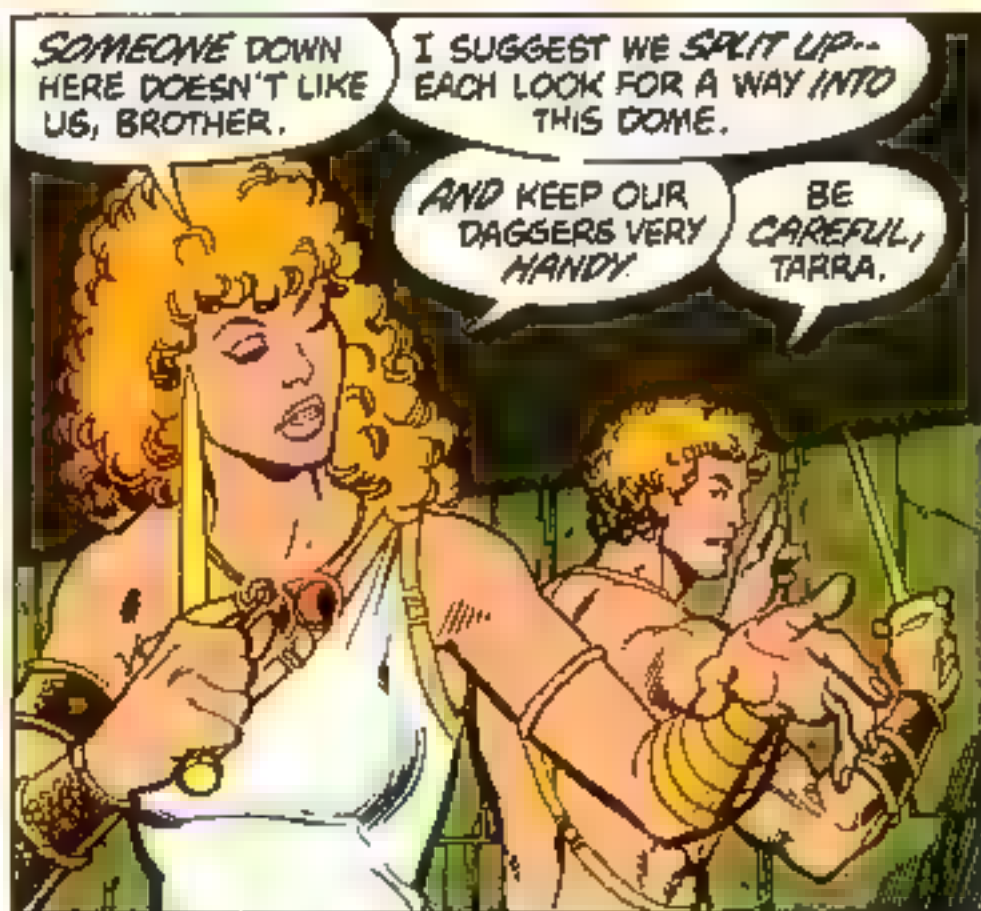
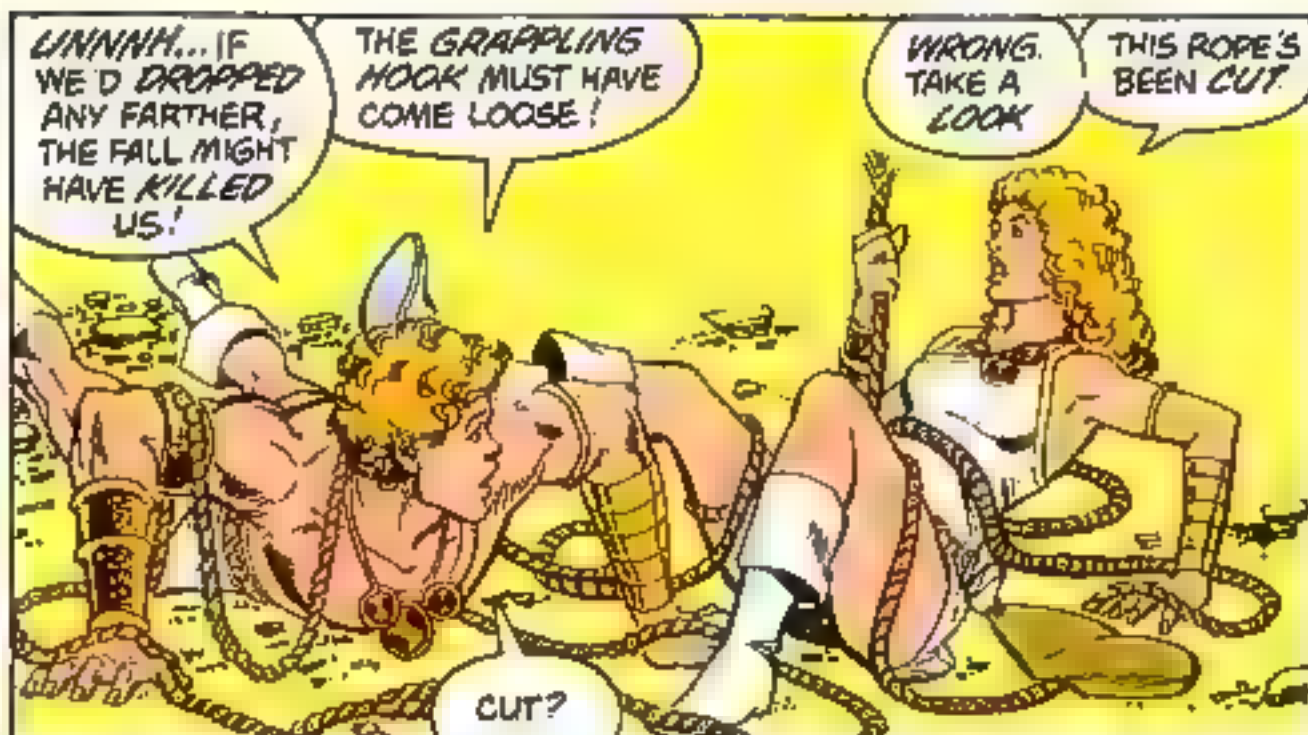
HERMINUS THE  
THIEF HAS BEEN  
TRYING TO FIND THAT  
SWORD FOR ALMOST  
TWELVE MOONS!

I'VE INVESTED TOO  
MUCH TIME AND  
PAIN IN THE SEARCH  
TO WELCOME A PAIR  
OF RIVALS!

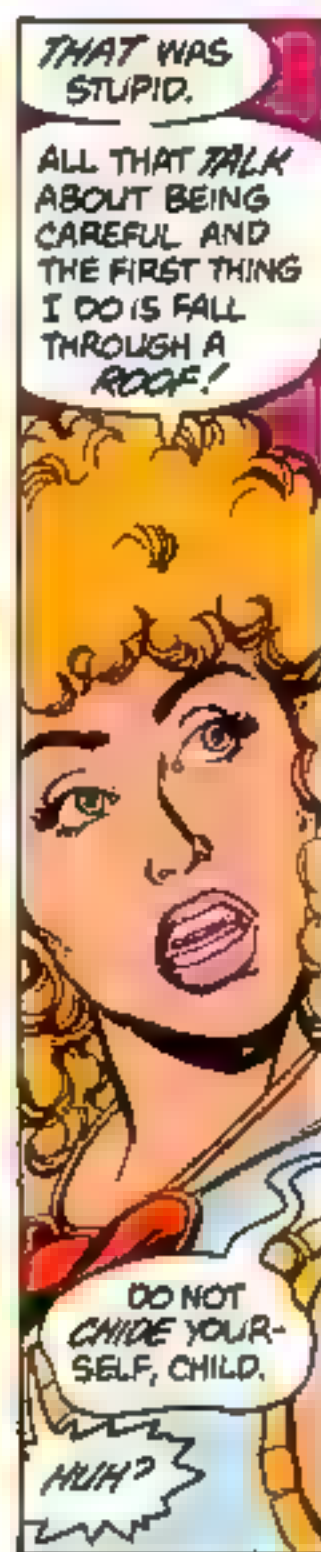
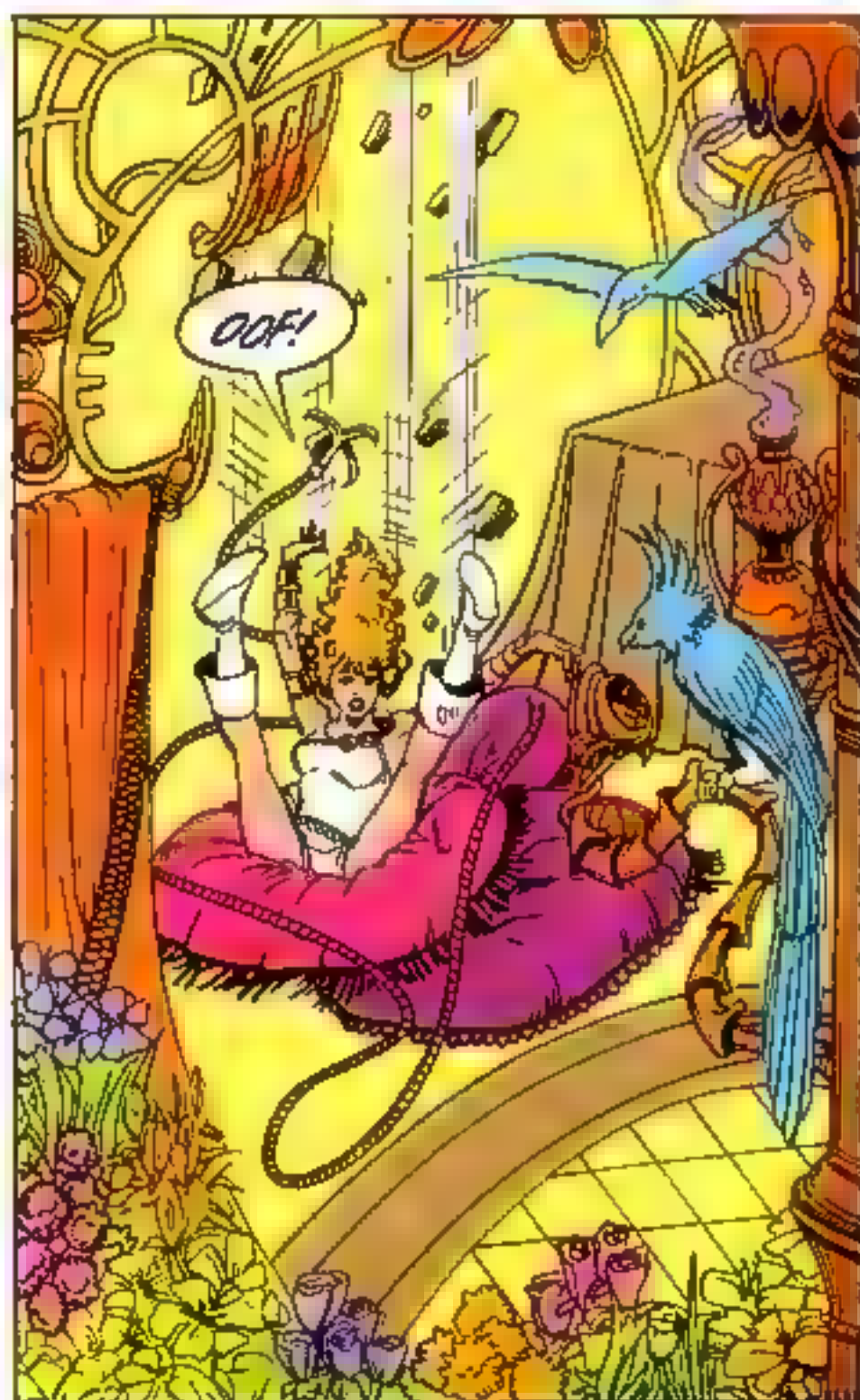
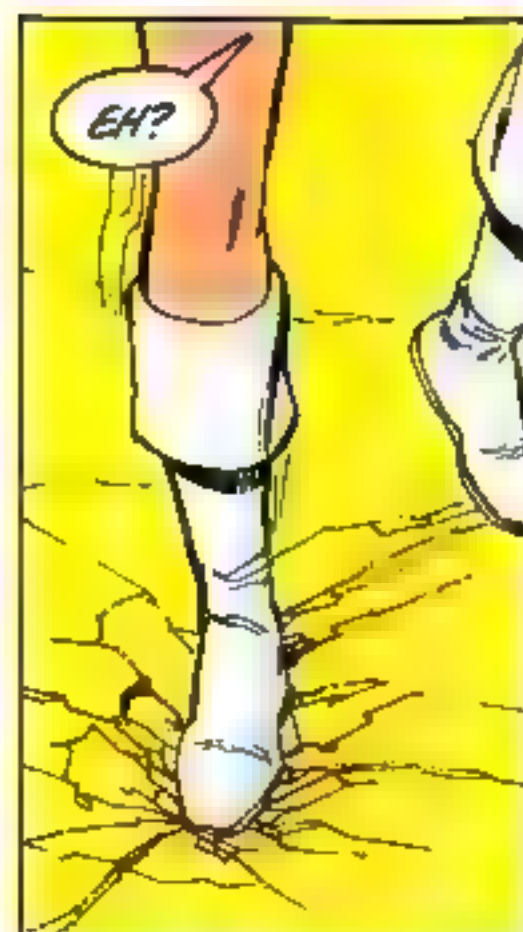
EVEN SUCH  
A PAIR OF FOOLS  
AS YOU!

SNIK!











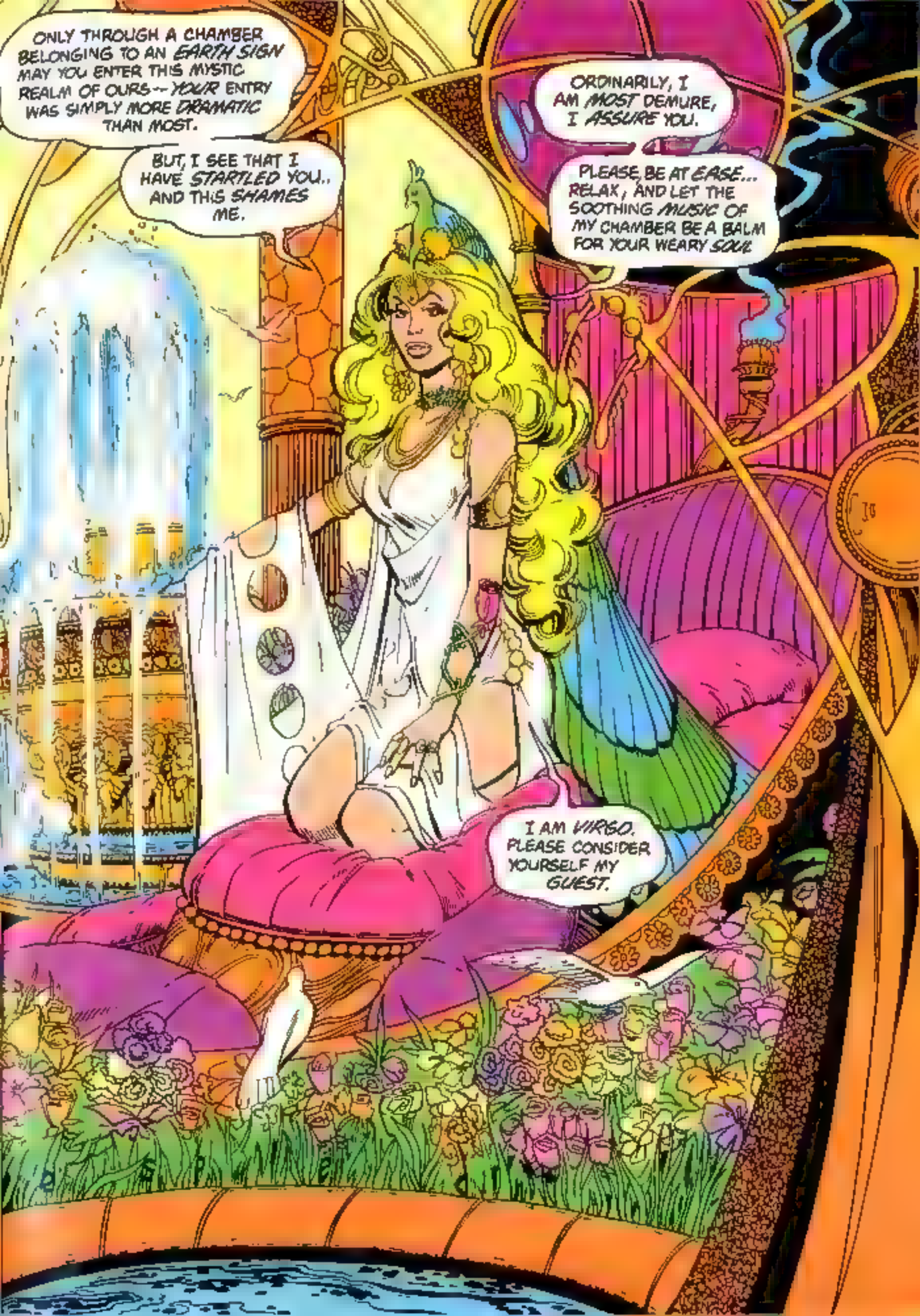
ONLY THROUGH A CHAMBER  
BELONGING TO AN EARTH SIGN  
MAY YOU ENTER THIS MYSTIC  
REALM OF OURS-- YOUR ENTRY  
WAS SIMPLY MORE DRAMATIC  
THAN MOST.

BUT, I SEE THAT I  
HAVE STARTLED YOU..  
AND THIS SHAMES  
ME.

ORDINARILY, I  
AM MOST DEMURE,  
I ASSURE YOU.

PLEASE, BE AT EASE...  
RELAX, AND LET THE  
SOOTHING MUSIC OF  
MY CHAMBER BE A BALM  
FOR YOUR WEARY SOUL

I AM VIRGO.  
PLEASE CONSIDER  
YOURSELF MY  
GUEST.





ELSEWHERE..

I'VE CIRCLED  
THIS HUGE DOME  
TWICE--

--AND THE ONLY  
THING EVEN APPROACHING  
A DOOR THAT I'VE FOUND  
IS THIS CREVICE.



WHUUF... IT'S A  
GOOD THING  
THIEVES DON'T EAT  
TOO REGULARLY..

...OR I'D NEVER  
MAKE IT THROUGH!



THERE!  
I'M IN!

NOW TO--

THUMP



THE CREVICE  
--IT SLAMMED  
SHUT BEHIND  
ME!

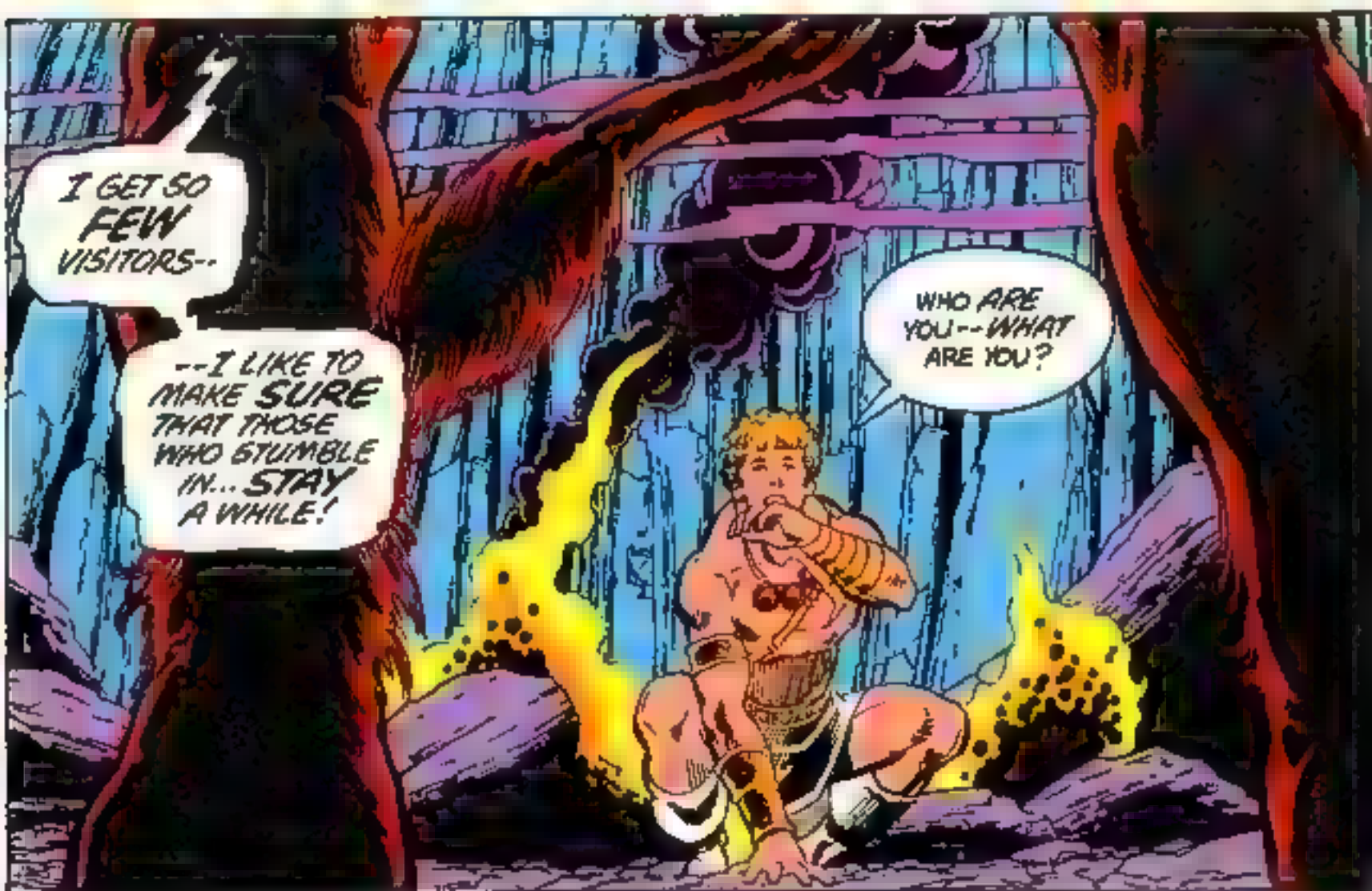


OF  
COURSE,  
BOY!

I GET SO  
FEW  
VISITORS--

--I LIKE TO  
MAKE SURE  
THAT THOSE  
WHO STUMBLE  
IN... STAY  
A WHILE!

WHO ARE  
YOU-- WHAT  
ARE YOU?





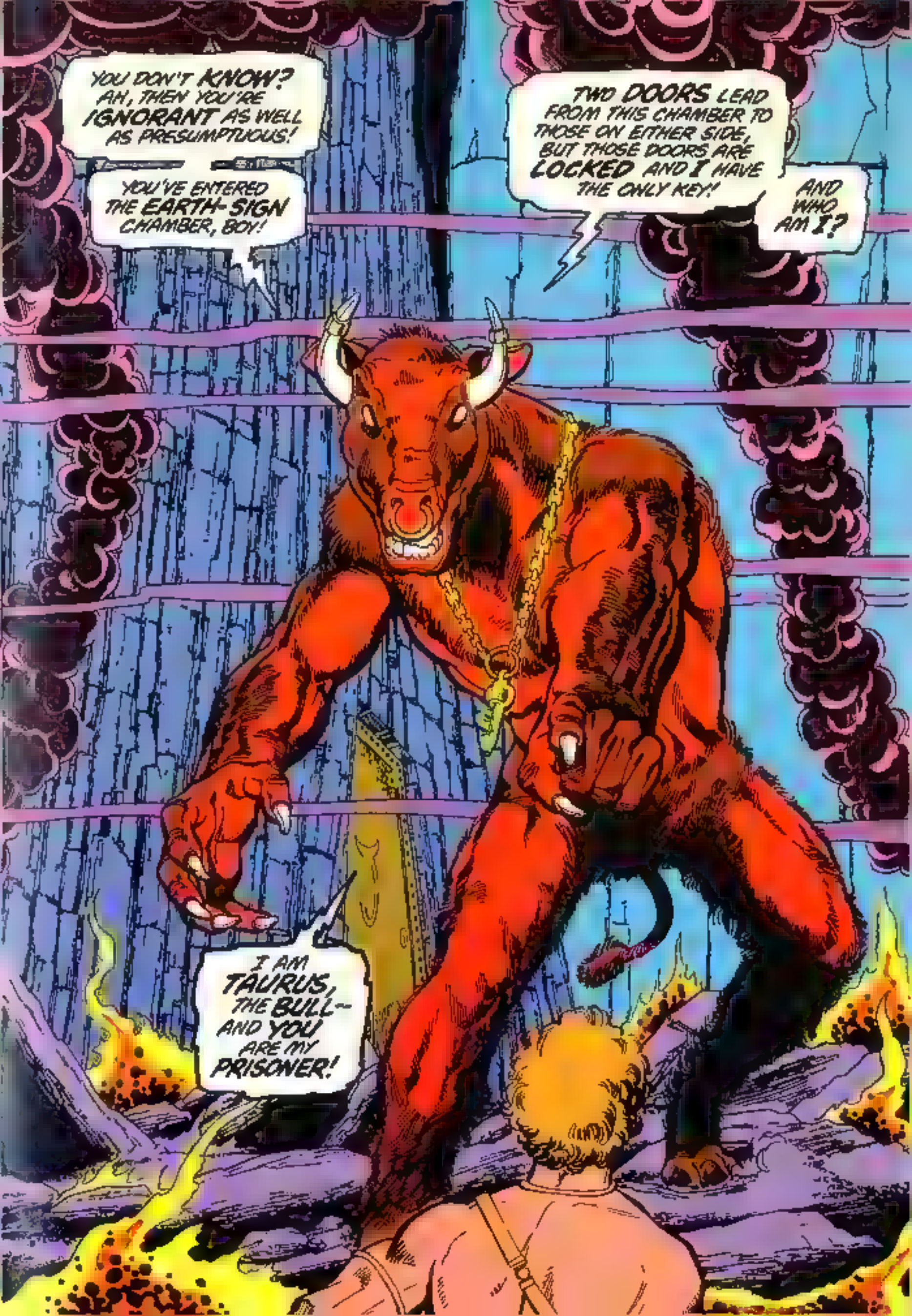
YOU DON'T KNOW?  
AH, THEN YOU'RE  
IGNORANT AS WELL  
AS PRESUMPTUOUS!

YOU'VE ENTERED  
THE EARTH-SIGN  
CHAMBER, BOY!

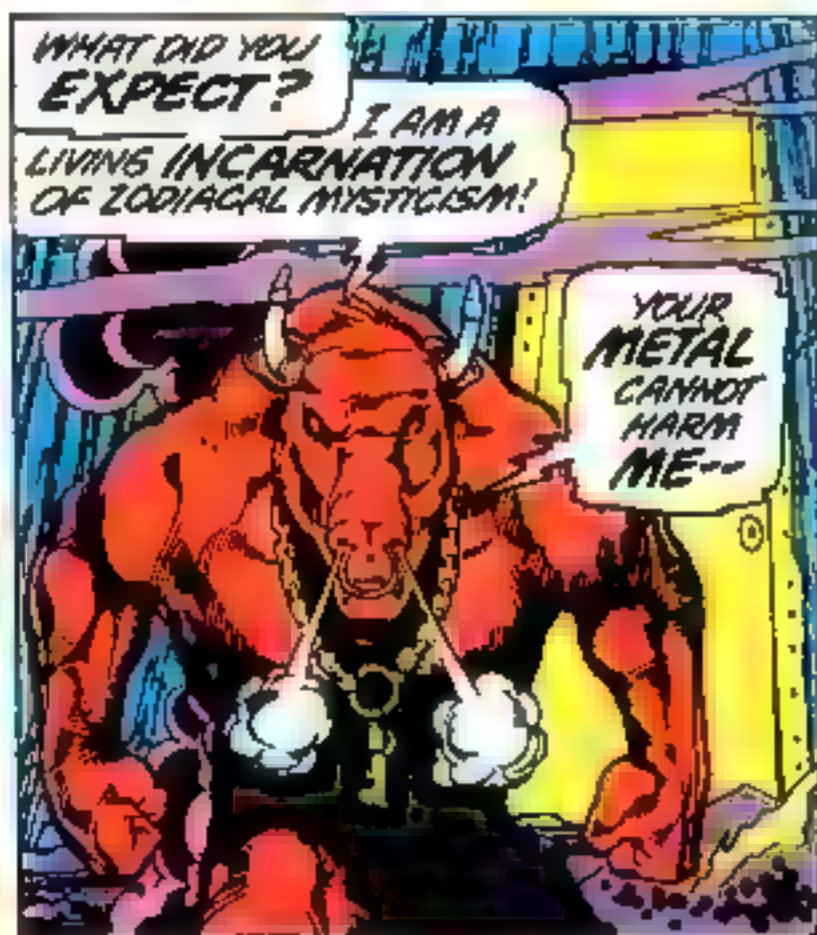
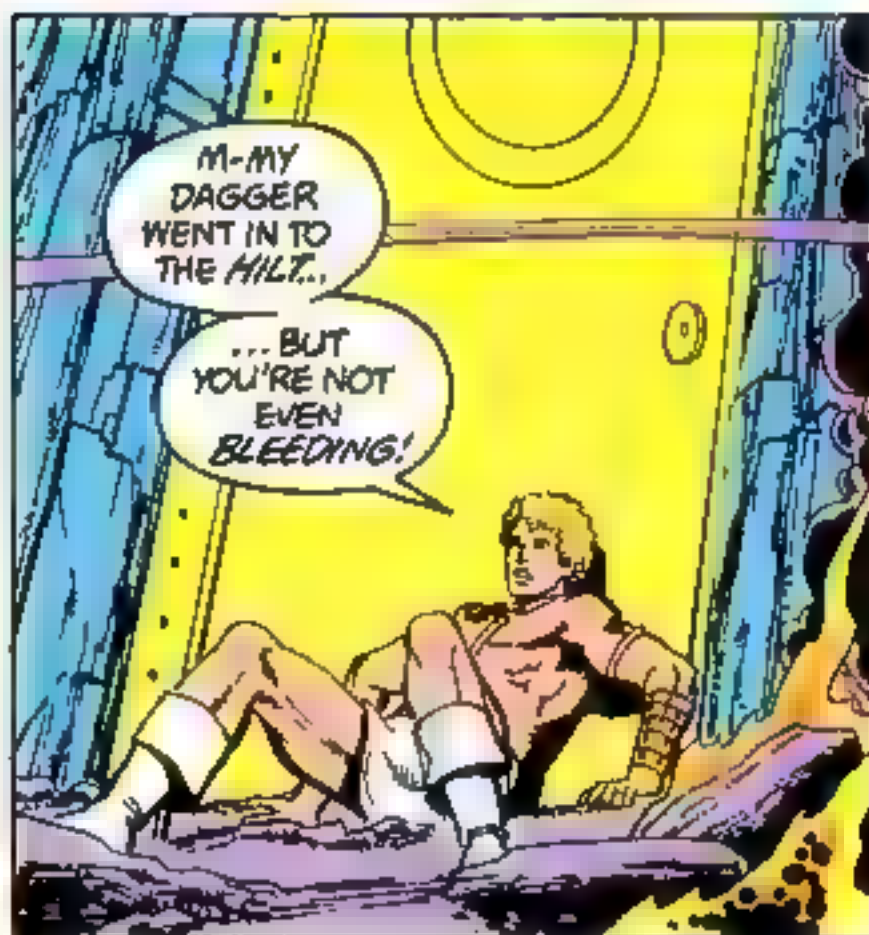
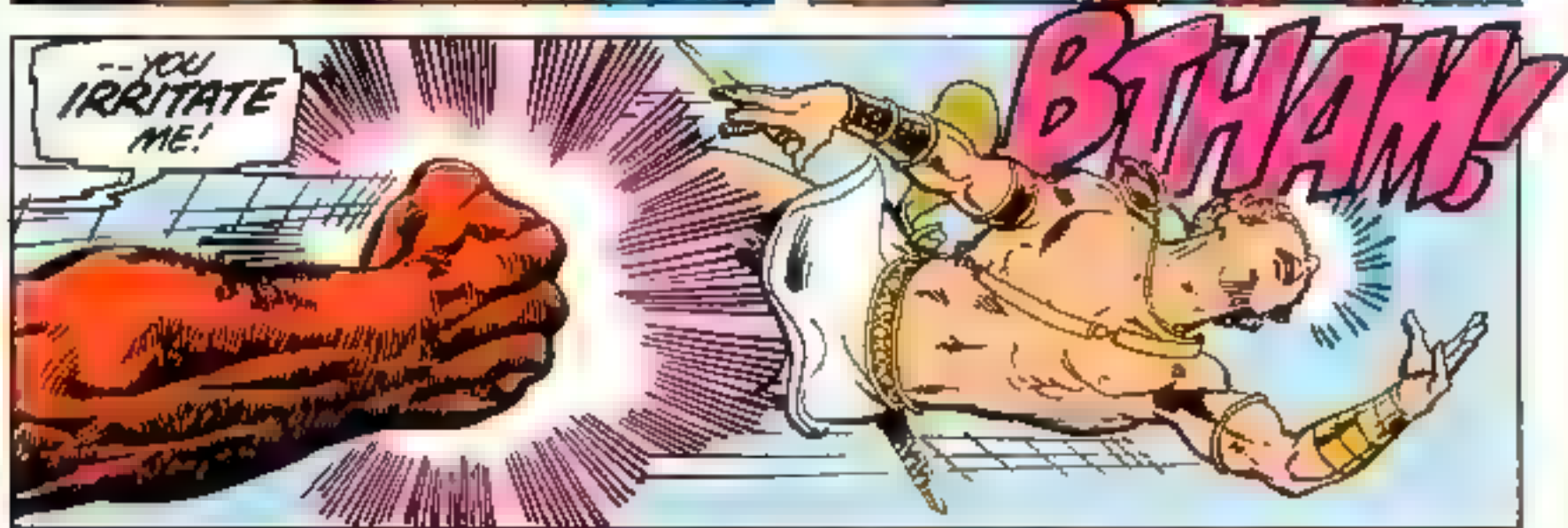
TWO DOORS LEAD  
FROM THIS CHAMBER TO  
THOSE ON EITHER SIDE,  
BUT THOSE DOORS ARE  
LOCKED AND I HAVE  
THE ONLY KEY!

AND  
WHO  
AM I?

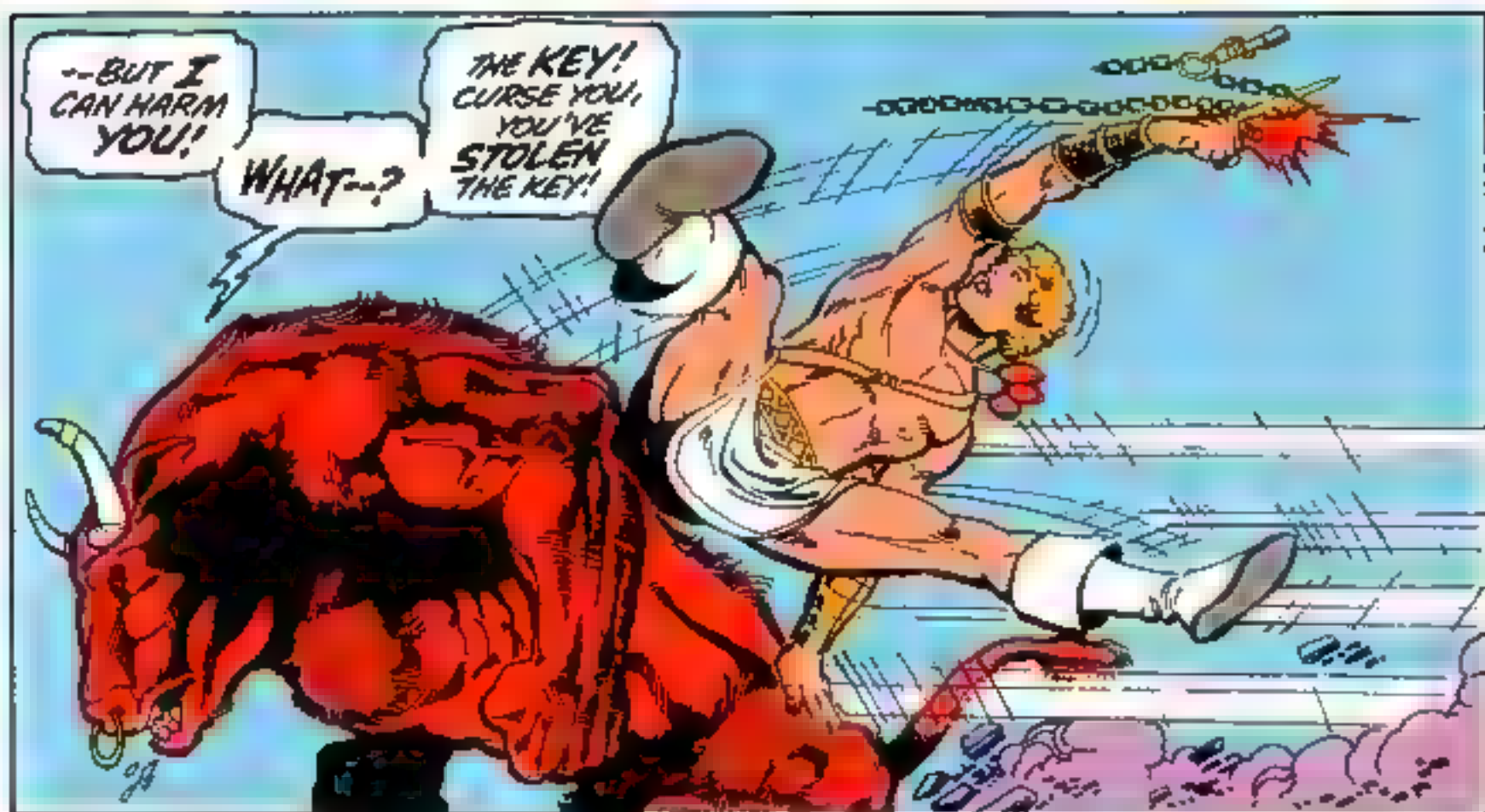
I AM  
TAURUS,  
THE BULL--  
AND YOU  
ARE MY  
PRISONER!













IN THE CHAMBER  
OF VIRGO...

SO... YOU SEEK  
THE SWORD  
OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY.

IT WAS WRITTEN THAT  
ONE DAY YOU WOULD  
COME-- YOU AND A  
FAIR-HAired BOY,  
WHO TOGETHER  
WOULD FORGE A  
GREAT DESTINY.

GODS.

BUT YOU WILL  
NEED HELP-- A WAY  
TO TRAVEL BETWEEN  
THE ZODIACAL  
CHAMBERS--

--AND YOU  
WILL FIND IT THERE,  
IN THE STAR  
OF PASSAGE!

IT'S  
BEAUTIFUL.

BUT HOW  
CAN I GET IT  
OUT OF THAT  
GLOBE?

PERHAPS  
BREAK THE  
GLASS  
WITH MY  
DAGGER--?

SOME  
SIXTH  
SENSE  
FREEZES  
HER HAND,  
AS SHE  
HEARS A  
STRANGE  
RUSTLE  
BEHIND  
HER--

-- LIKE THE LEATHERY  
WHISPER OF INHUMAN  
WINGS...



HOT  
BREATH  
WARMING  
HER  
NECK.

PART OF HER  
SCREAMS A  
WARNING--  
"USE THE  
DAGGER!  
DEFEND  
YOURSELF!"

...TRUSTING TO  
SHEER WILL  
TO ACHIEVE  
HER GOAL.

GOOD.

YOU'VE PASSED  
THE FIRST  
TEST.

VIRGO! BUT I  
THOUGHT YOU'D  
BECOME SOME KIND  
OF--OF MONSTER!

WAS THAT AN  
ILLUSION?

NO, CHILD. I SIMPLY RESPONDED  
TO POTENTIAL VIOLENCE.

HAD YOU PERSISTED, I MIGHT  
HAVE KILLED  
YOU--OR YOU  
MIGHT HAVE  
KILLED ME.

NOW LET  
THE STAR  
TAKE YOU  
WHERE IT  
WILL..

.. AND  
MAY THE  
LORDS OF  
THE  
ZODIAC  
KEEP YOU  
SAFE!

BUT A GENTLER  
ASPECT OF HER  
SOUL REBELS, AND  
THRUSTS BLADE  
BACK INTO SHEATH...

SUCH  
REACTIONS  
ARE BEYOND  
MY CONTROL.

BUT I AM  
PLEASED THE  
CONFRONTATION  
WAS AVOIDED.



A MOMENT OF BLINDING LIGHT AND, WHEN IT FADES, TARRA FINDS HERSELF IN A SWEET-SMELLING GARDEN...

... LISTENING TO THE MUSIC OF A VERY STRANGE PIPER INDEED.

AH, A VISITOR.  
HOW DELIGHTFUL.

COME  
PLAY WITH  
CARRICORN,  
MY DEAR.

PLAY  
WITH ME--

--OR  
DIE!

NO THANKS,  
GOAT.

I'M  
LOOKING  
FOR MY  
BROTHER, AND  
I CAN'T STOP  
TO PLAY  
UNTIL I--

# SHORT-SHORT

--FIND  
HIM.



TORR BLINKS TWICE, AND  
SHAKES HIS HEAD AS IF TO  
CLEAR IT, NOT QUITE  
SURE IF HE'S LOST HIS  
MIND.

THE CORRIDOR  
FROM THE CHAMBER  
OF TAURUS LED  
HIM TO ANOTHER  
LOCKED DOOR,  
WHICH OPENED AT A  
TOUCH OF HIS KEY;  
HE STEPPED THROUGH.

...INTO A SCENE  
OF SHEER  
NIGHTMARE.

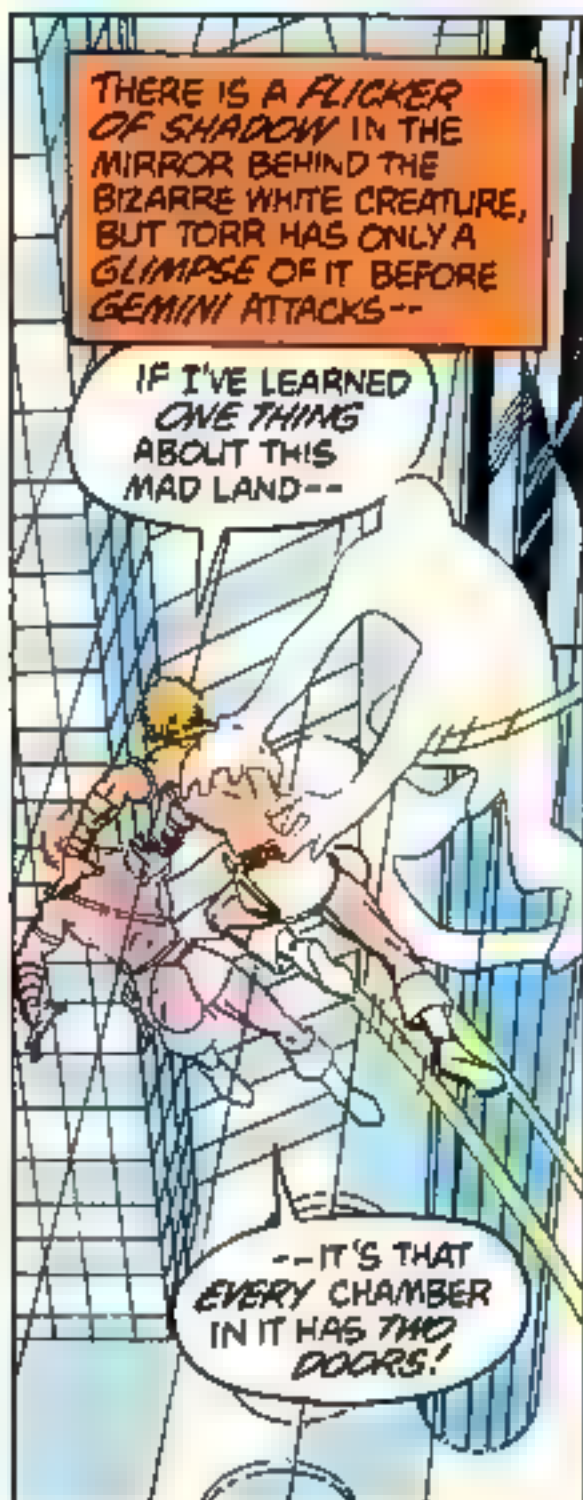
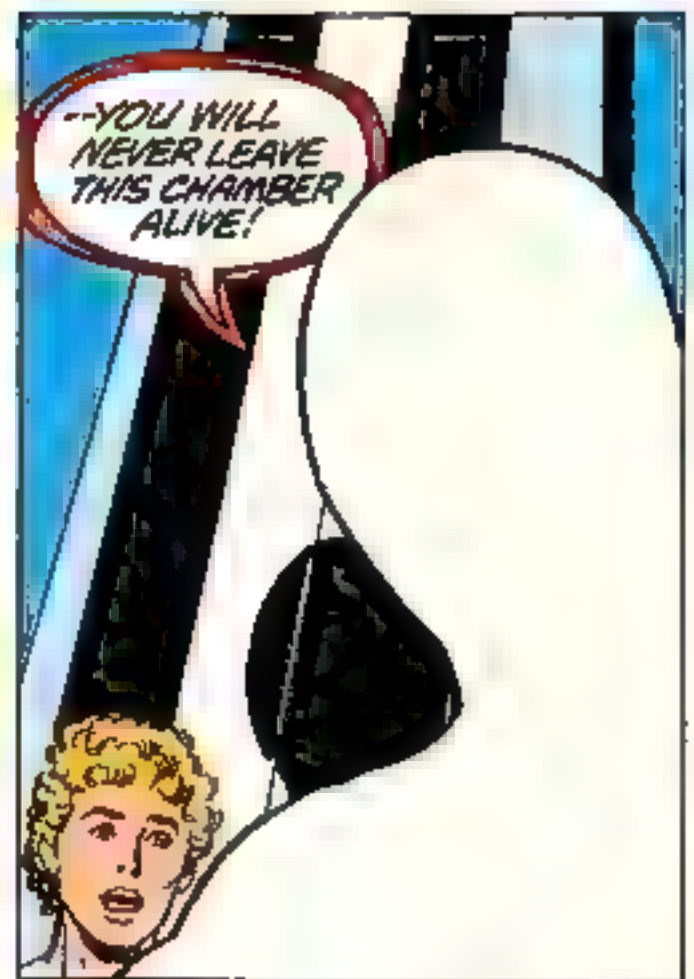
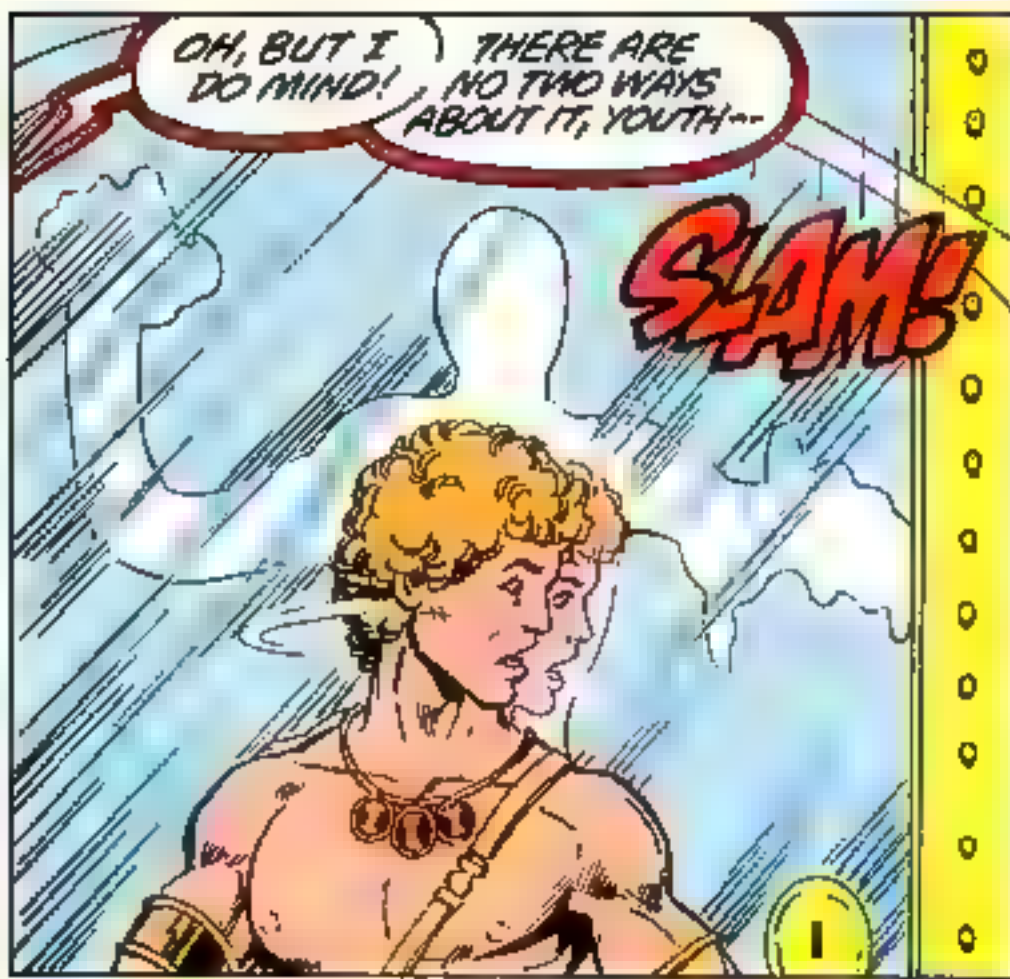
WHO  
ENTERS THE  
MIRRORED  
HALL OF  
GEMINI?

IDENTIFY  
YOURSELF, AND  
PERHAPS I  
SHALL LET YOU  
LIVE!

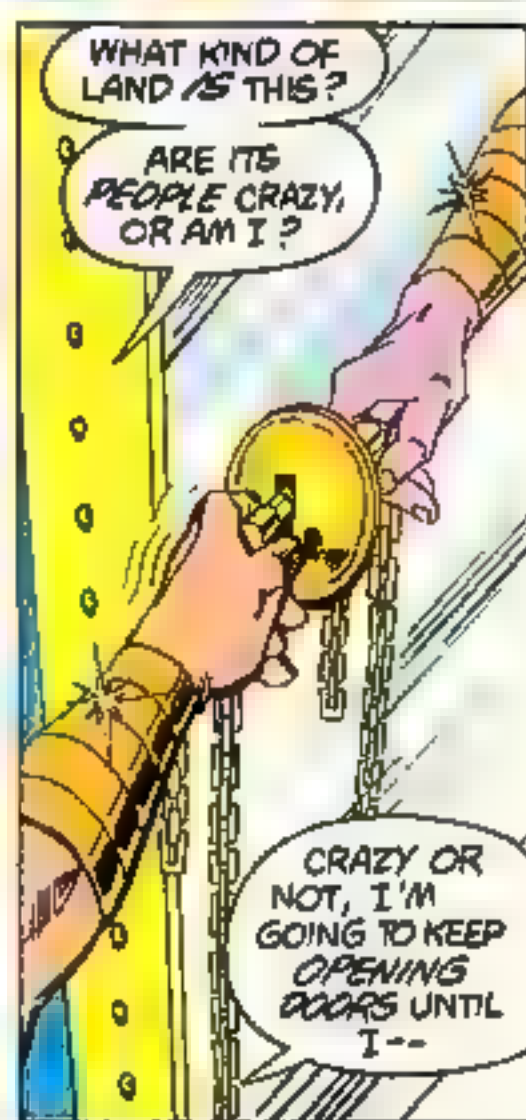
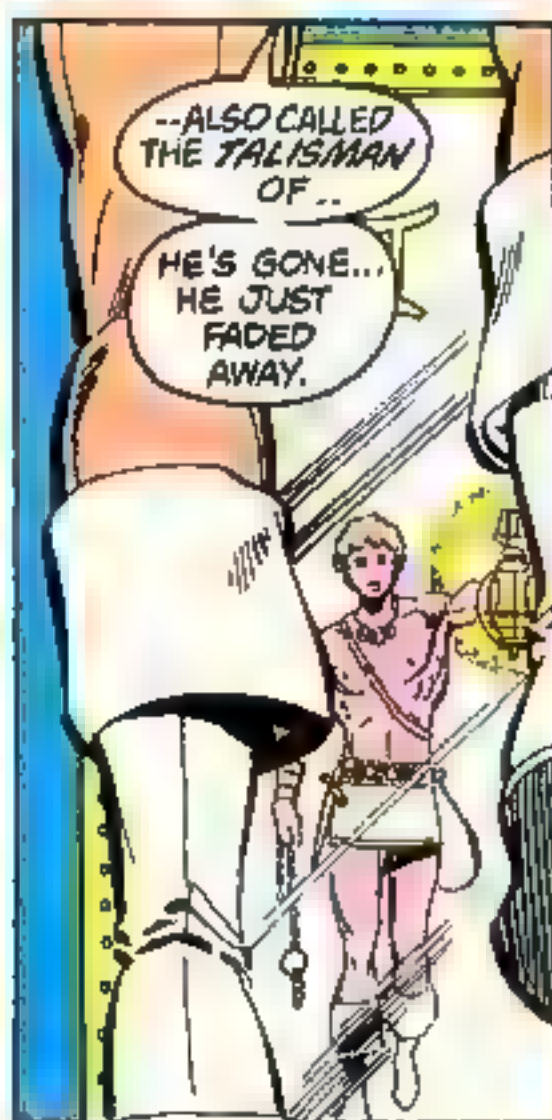
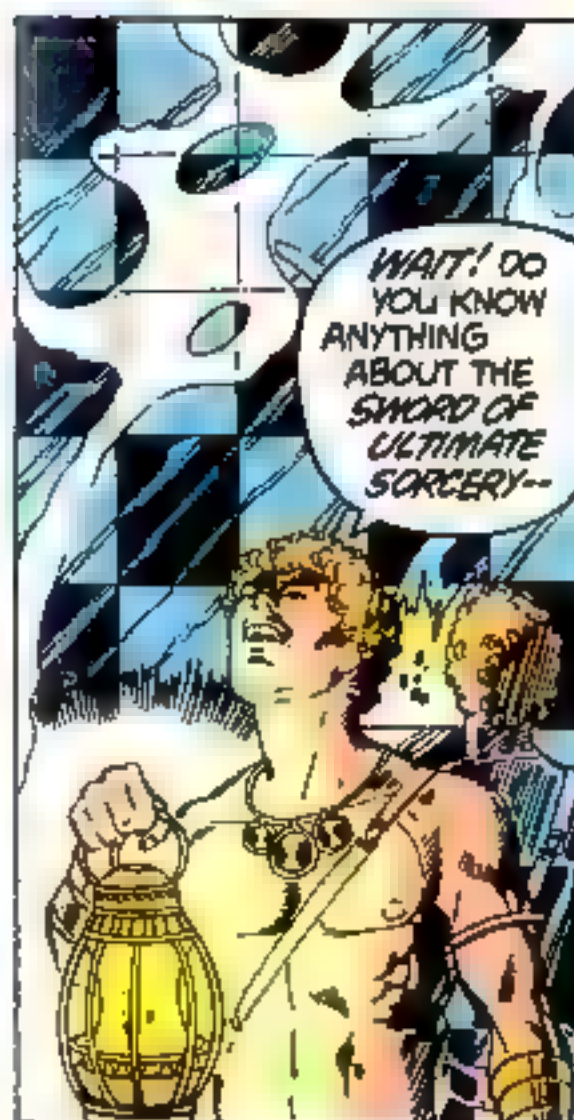
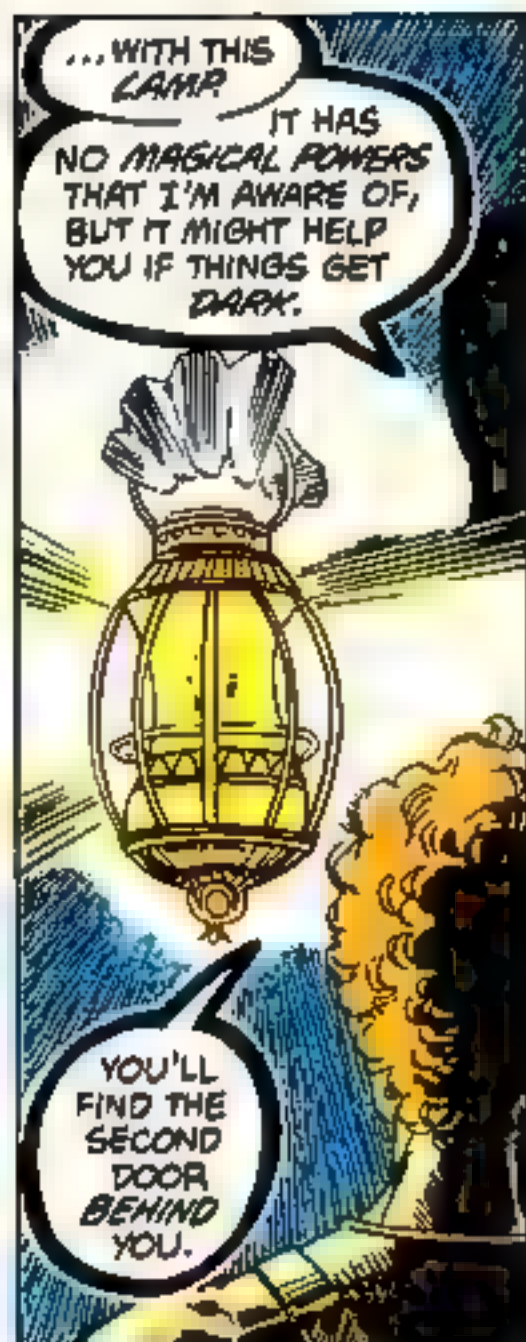
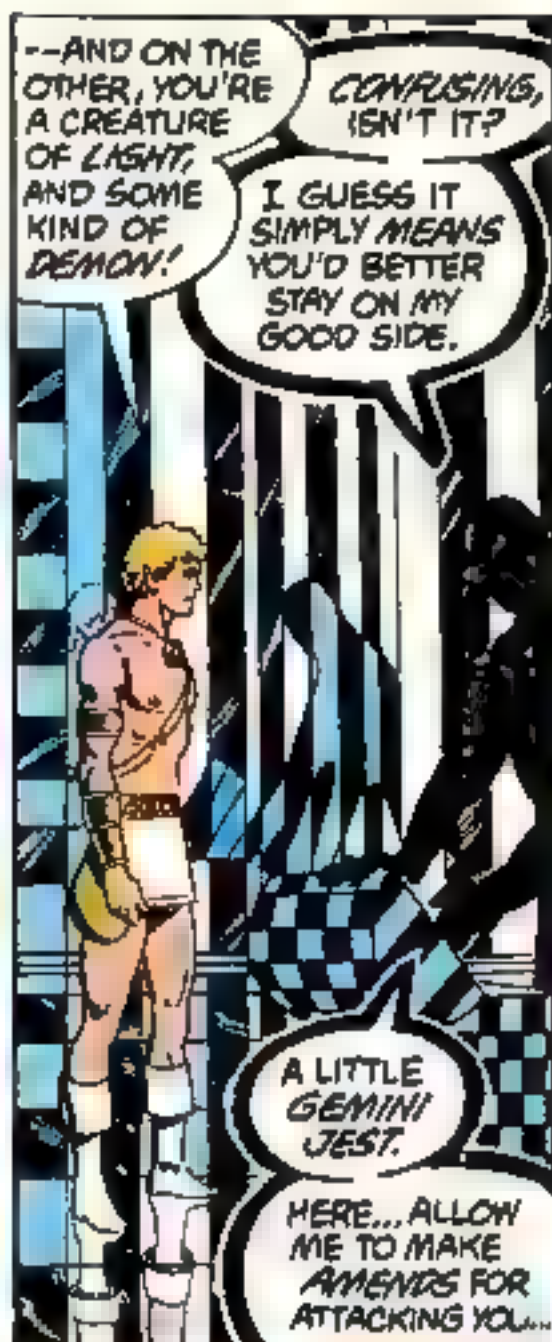
I THINK I'LL  
JUST TAKE MY  
CHANCES WITH  
TAURUS, IF  
YOU DON'T  
MIND--











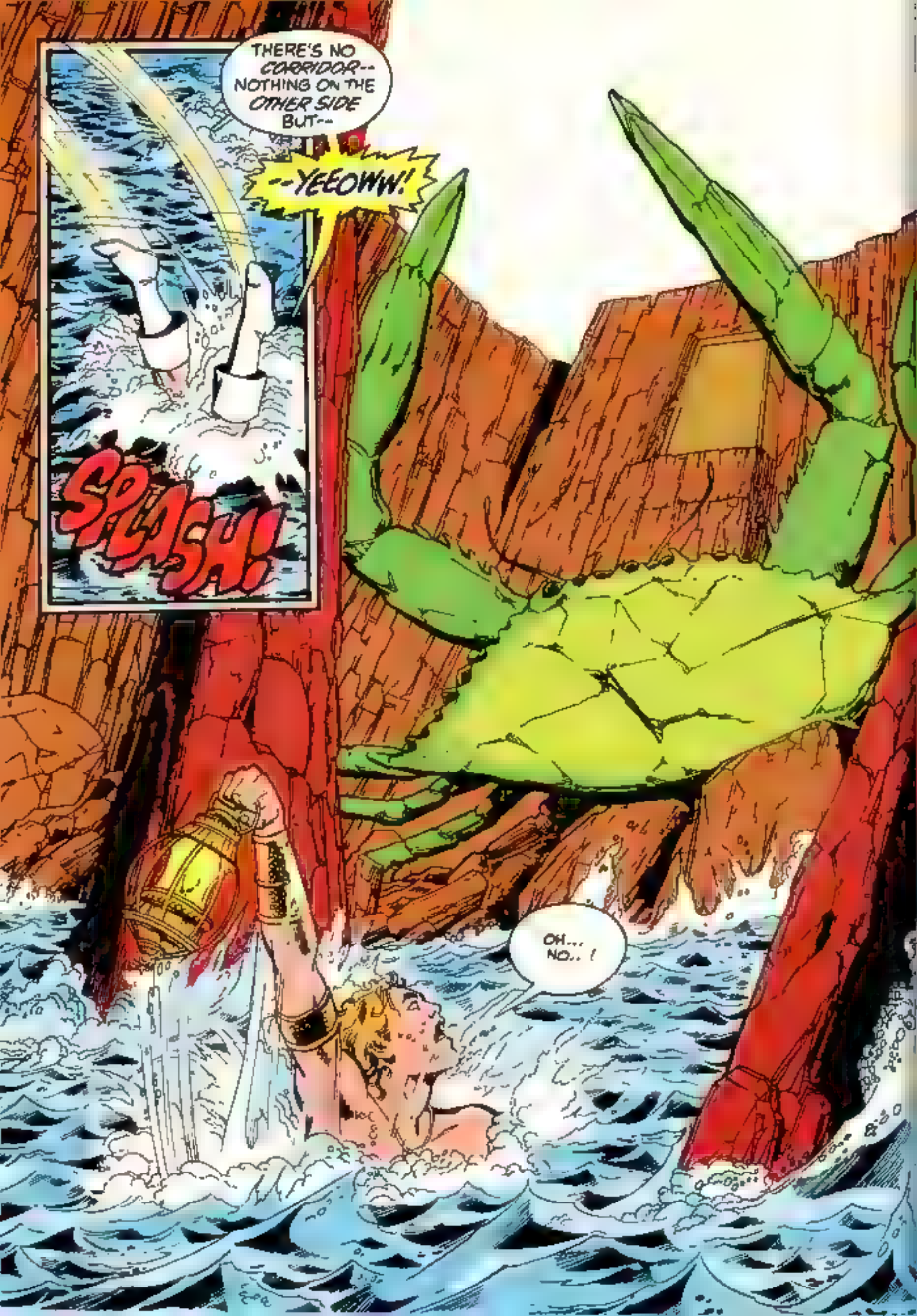


THERE'S NO  
CORRIDOR--  
NOTHING ON THE  
OTHER SIDE  
BUT--

--YEEOWW!

**SPLASH!**

OH...  
NO..!





ELSEWHERE...

WHAT AN  
ODD CREATURE  
TAURLUS IS...  
APPARENTLY,  
TORR BESTED  
HIM, AND  
TAURLUS  
FOUND THAT  
AMUSING!

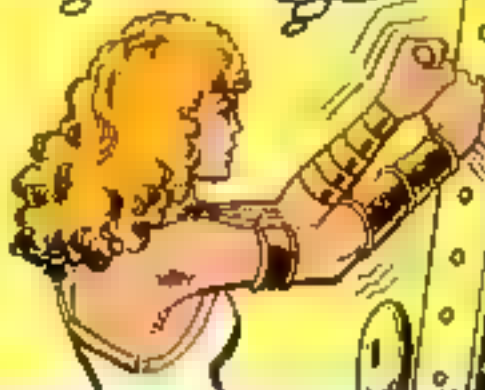


SO AMUSING, HE  
OFFERED ME SOME  
ADVICE AND HELP  
WHEN HE REALIZED  
WHO I WAS--

-- TELLING ME TO  
TAKE THIS CORRIDOR  
TO THE CHAMBER ON  
HIS LEFT, WHERE HE  
SAID TORR WOULD BE  
WAITING FOR ME!

TORR!  
IT'S  
TARRA!

I'VE GOT  
A SURPRISE  
FOR YOU--



IS THAT  
SO, LITTLE  
GIRL?

AND ARIES  
HAS A  
SURPRISE  
FOR YOU,  
TOO!



ULP!

THE MINOTAUR  
LIED!

HAVE TO GET OUT  
OF HERE-- BEFORE  
ARIES CAN REACH  
ME TO--



IN HER HAND, THE  
STAR GLOWS, AS  
IF SENSING HER DISTRESS,  
AND BETWEEN ONE  
BREATH AND THE NEXT--



-- SHE FINDS HERSELF  
TRANSPORTED, OUT OF  
THE FIRE AND INTO THE  
FURNACE...

GODS OF  
MY MOTHER!

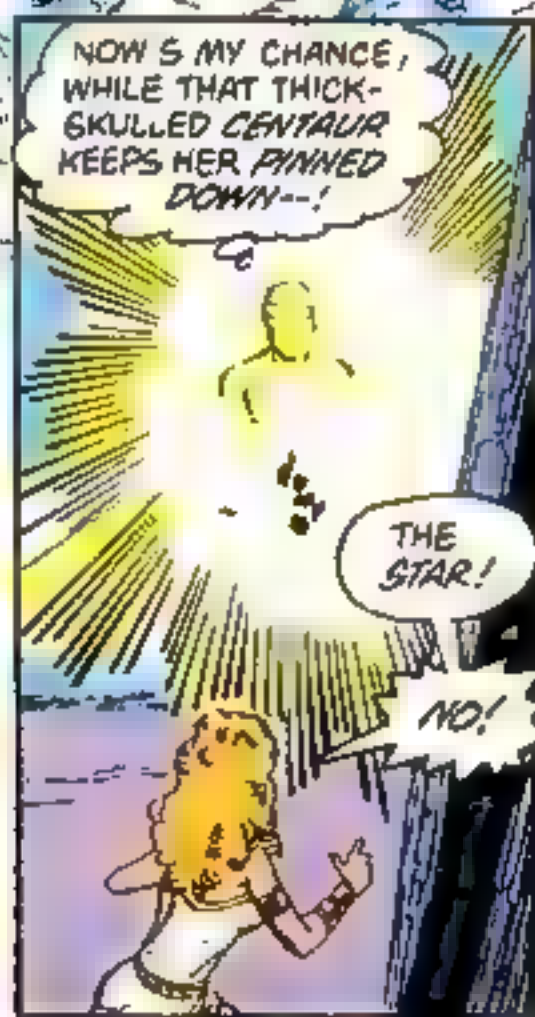
HERMINUS,  
WHO IS THIS  
BOLD  
INTRUDER?

IS IT ONE OF  
THE THIEVES  
YOU WARNED  
ME ABOUT?

AYE, BRAVE  
SAGITTARIUS--  
THE VIXEN  
CALLED TARGA!

SEE? SHE'S STOLEN  
THE STAR OF  
PASSAGE FROM  
SWEET VIRGO!

BE SWIFT, BEFORE  
SHE CAN VANISH  
AGAIN--!





AND, ELSEWHERE...

I MUST ADMIT, GOOD FRIEND  
CRAB-- YOU GAVE ME  
QUITE A FRIGHT BACK  
THERE!

NOT MY  
INTENTION.

AM PEACEFUL,  
IF NOT  
ATTACKED.

THOUGH NOT  
ALWAYS TRUE,  
IF STAR-SIGNS  
ARE AWRY.

GO AND BE  
WELL, YOUNG  
WARRIOR... AND  
KNOW YOU HAVE  
FRIEND IN CANCER

I'M  
BEGINNING  
TO UNDER-  
STAND.

WAR-CRAFT  
MAY BE USELESS  
IN THIS LAND,  
WHERE FOES  
CAN BECOME  
FRIENDS AND  
FRIENDS CAN  
TURN INTO  
FOES!

I BETTER  
WARN TARRA!

IF I CAN  
FIND HER!

YET ANOTHER  
DOOR OPENS TO  
THE MAGIC KEY'S  
TOUCH, BUT  
WHEN TORR STEPS  
THROUGH INTO  
THE CHAMBER  
BEYOND--

--HE IS GREETED  
BY A ROAR OF  
UNBRIDLED  
FURY!

THIEF AND  
TRESPASSER!

HERMINUS WARNED  
ME THAT YOU WOULD  
COME, BEARING  
STOLEN TREASURES  
AND SPOUTING LIES!

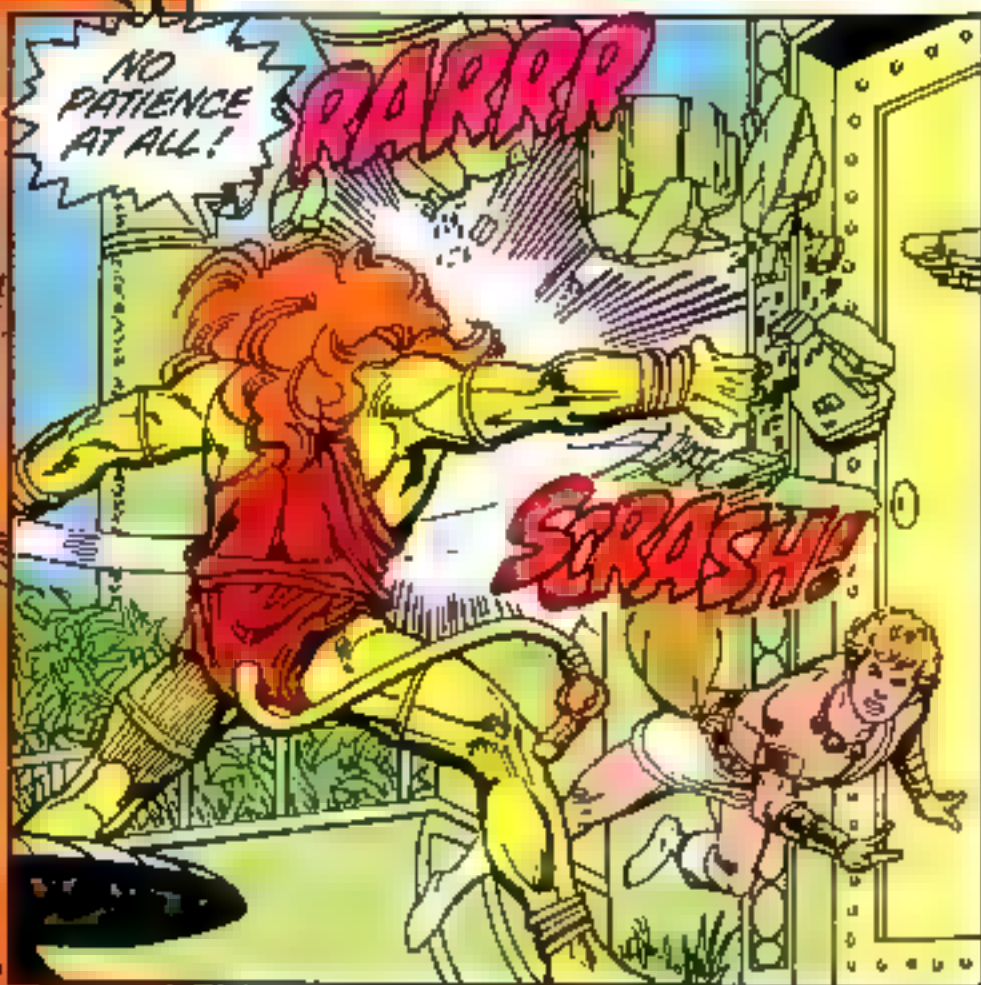
WATCH HIM  
CAREFULLY,  
KING LED--

HE'S A  
TRICKY  
ONE,  
HE IS!





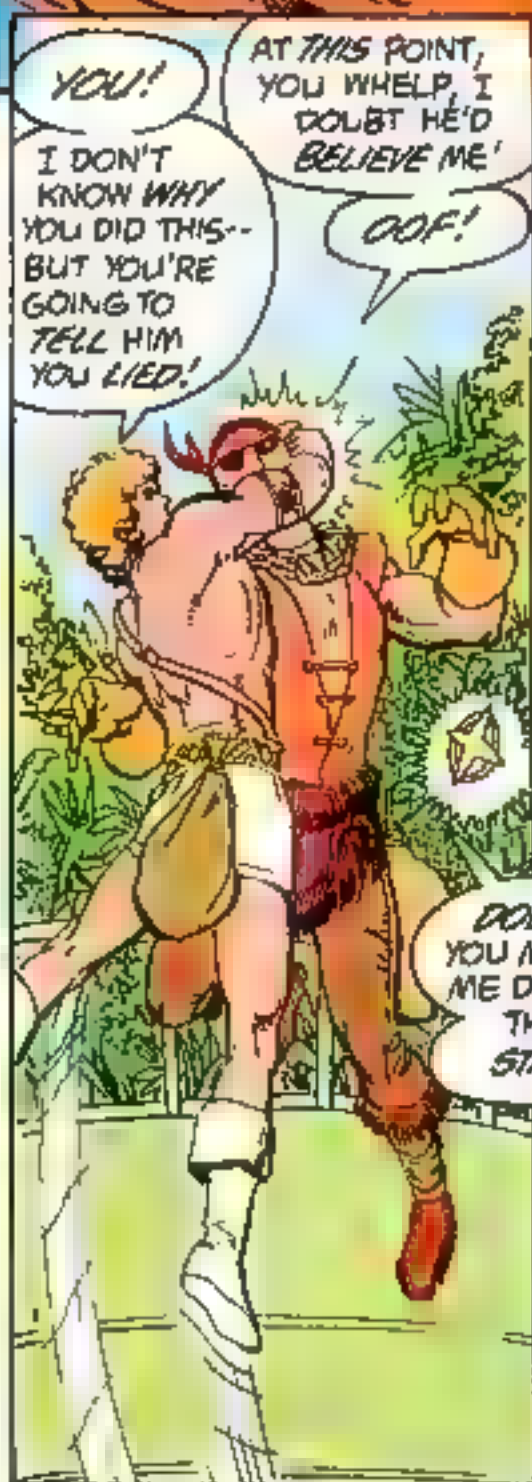
I HAVE NO  
PATIENCE  
WITH TRICKSTERS,  
HERMINUS!



NO  
PATIENCE  
AT ALL!

**RARRR**

**CRASH!**

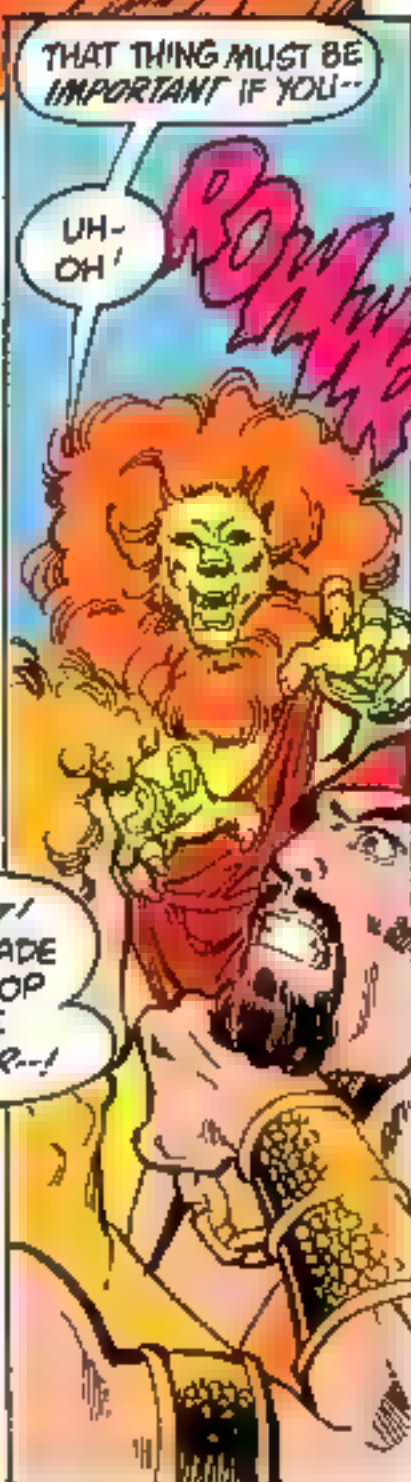


YOU!

I DON'T  
KNOW WHY  
YOU DID THIS--  
BUT YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
TELL HIM  
YOU LIED!

AT THIS POINT,  
YOU WHELP, I  
DOUBT HE'D  
BELIEVE ME!

OOF!



THAT THING MUST BE  
IMPORTANT IF YOU--

UH-  
OH!

**ROWRR**

DOLT!  
YOU MADE  
ME DROP  
THE  
STAR--!



TWO HANDS REACH,  
BUT ONE REACHES  
FASTER--



--AND IN A FLASH OF  
BLINDING LIGHT,  
BOTH THIEVES ARE--

GONE!



HALF A BREATH  
LATER...

TARRA!

**TWCHUNK!**

TORR, GET  
AWAY!  
SAGITTARIUS  
WON'T LISTEN  
TO REASON!

HE THINKS  
WE'RE  
BANDITS!

I'M  
FINDING  
YOUR  
RANGE,  
WENCH!

TARRA'S GETTING  
WINDED-- SHE CAN'T  
KEEP DODGING AND, AS  
LONG AS THAT ARMED  
CENTAUR IS BETWEEN US,  
I CAN'T REACH HER TO  
HELP!

WAIT-- MAYBE I CAN  
BLIND HIM BY TOSSING  
THIS CLOAK  
OVER HIS--

SIMULTANEOUSLY...

NO SIGN OF  
TORR-- HE  
MUST HAVE  
ESCAPED!

AT LEAST ONE  
OF US WILL  
SURVIVE!

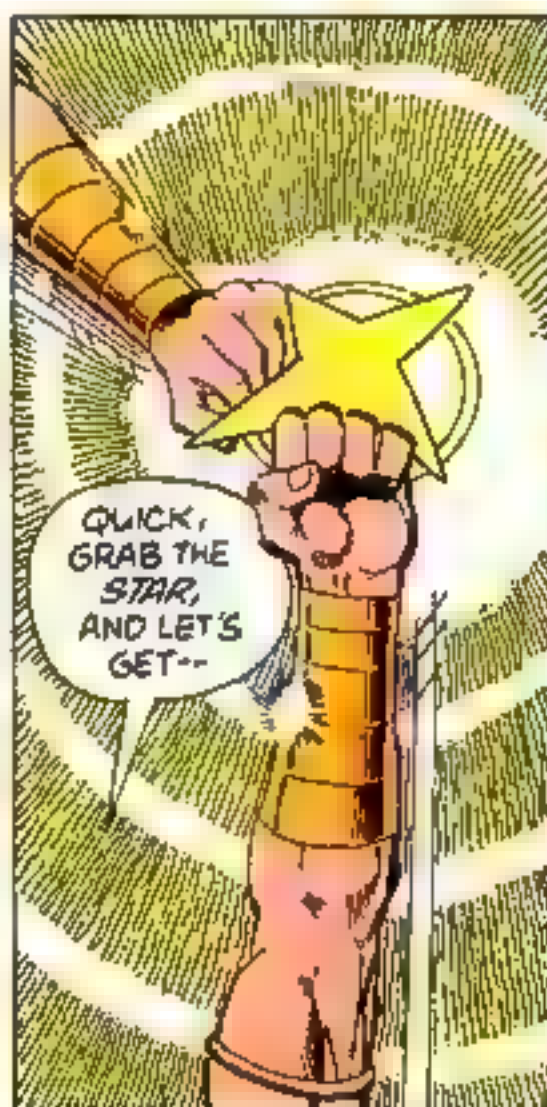
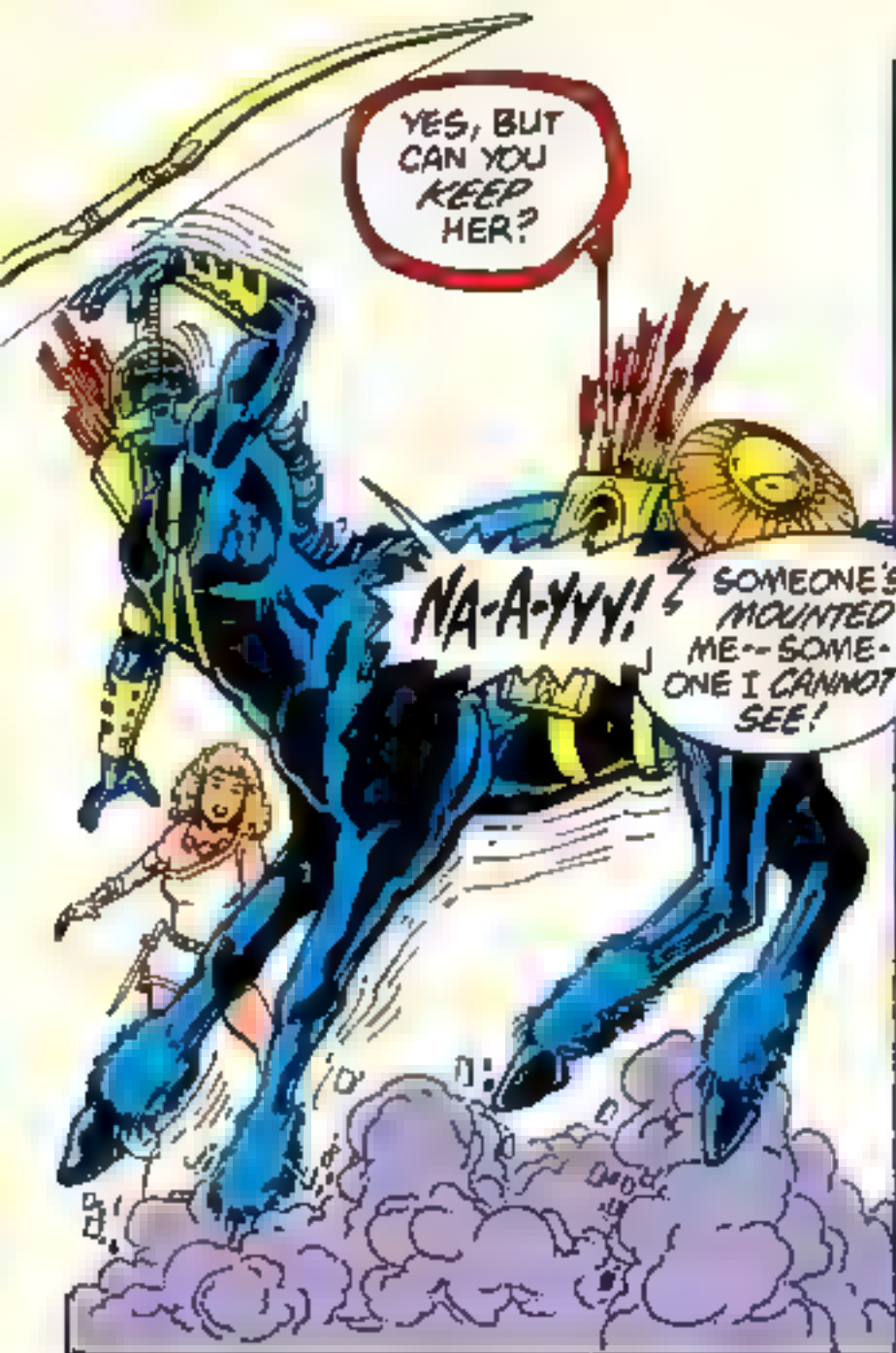
HUH?

THIS  
IS IT.

... GODS HELP  
ME, I CAN'T RUN  
ANY FURTHER!

NOW  
I HAVE  
YOU!









--OUT  
OF HERE?

SOMETHING HAPPENED  
WHEN WE TOUCHED  
THE STAR TOGETHER!

THIS ISN'T ONE  
OF THE ZODIACAL  
CHAMBERS!

TORR,  
LOOK UP  
THERE!

WE'VE MADE  
IT TO THE CENTRAL  
CHAMBER!

THAT'S IT--  
THAT'S WHAT  
WE'VE BEEN  
SEEKING--

--THE SWORD  
OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY!



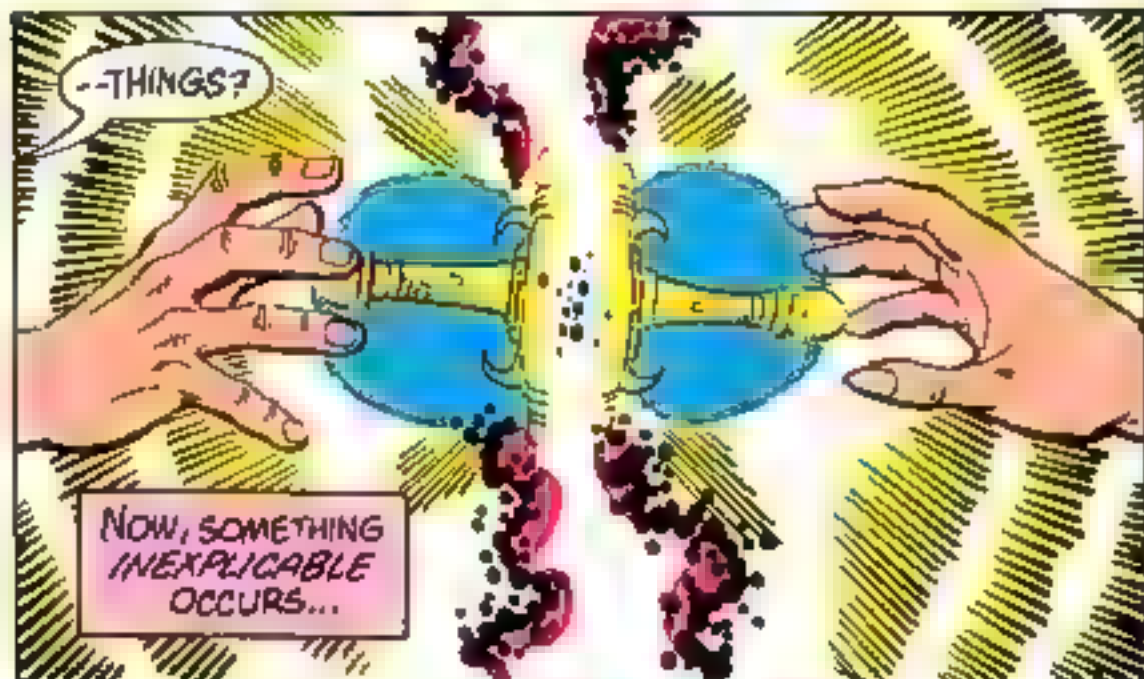
AWAKE TAKES THEIR  
BREATHS AWAY

AS IF  
FORGED  
IN THE  
FIRES OF  
THE SUN,  
THE SWORD  
GLOWS  
WITH  
UNEARTHLY  
GLORY,  
SENDING A  
LANCE OF  
PURE  
ENERGY  
DOWN TO  
THE MARBLE  
BENEATH  
ITS POINT

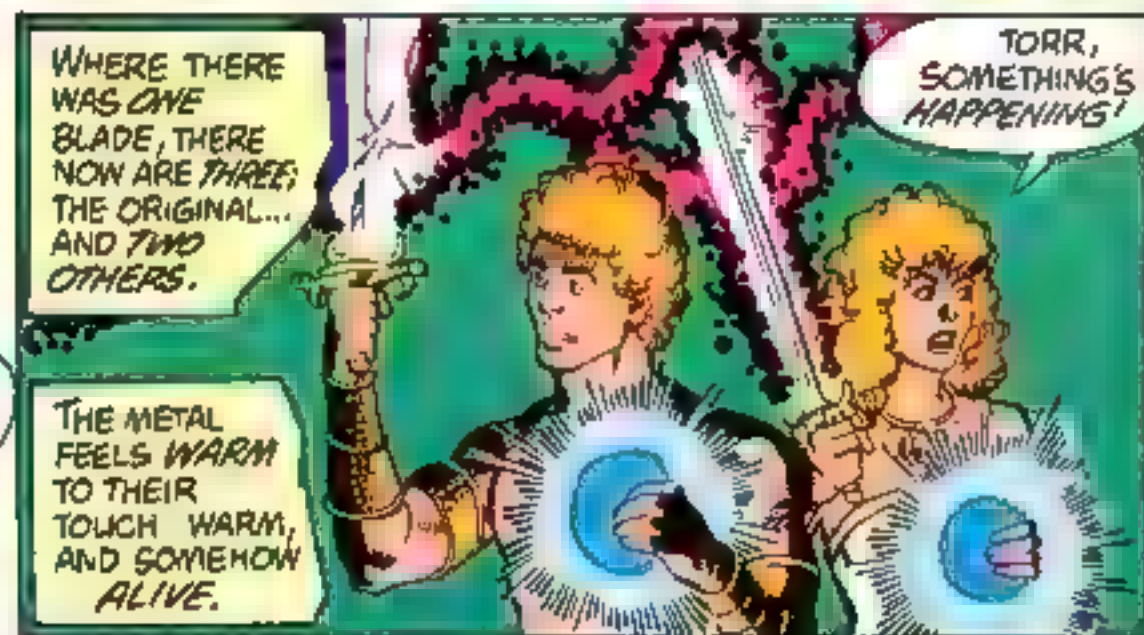
THAT  
ZODIAC  
DISC! WE  
SAW IT  
BEFORE,  
WHEN OUR  
MENTORS  
SHOWED  
US THE  
SWORD!

TOR--  
I JUST  
REALIZED--

--WHAT IF  
THE SWORD  
AND THE  
TALISMAN  
OF WHICH  
THEY SPOKE  
ARE TWO  
SEPARATE--



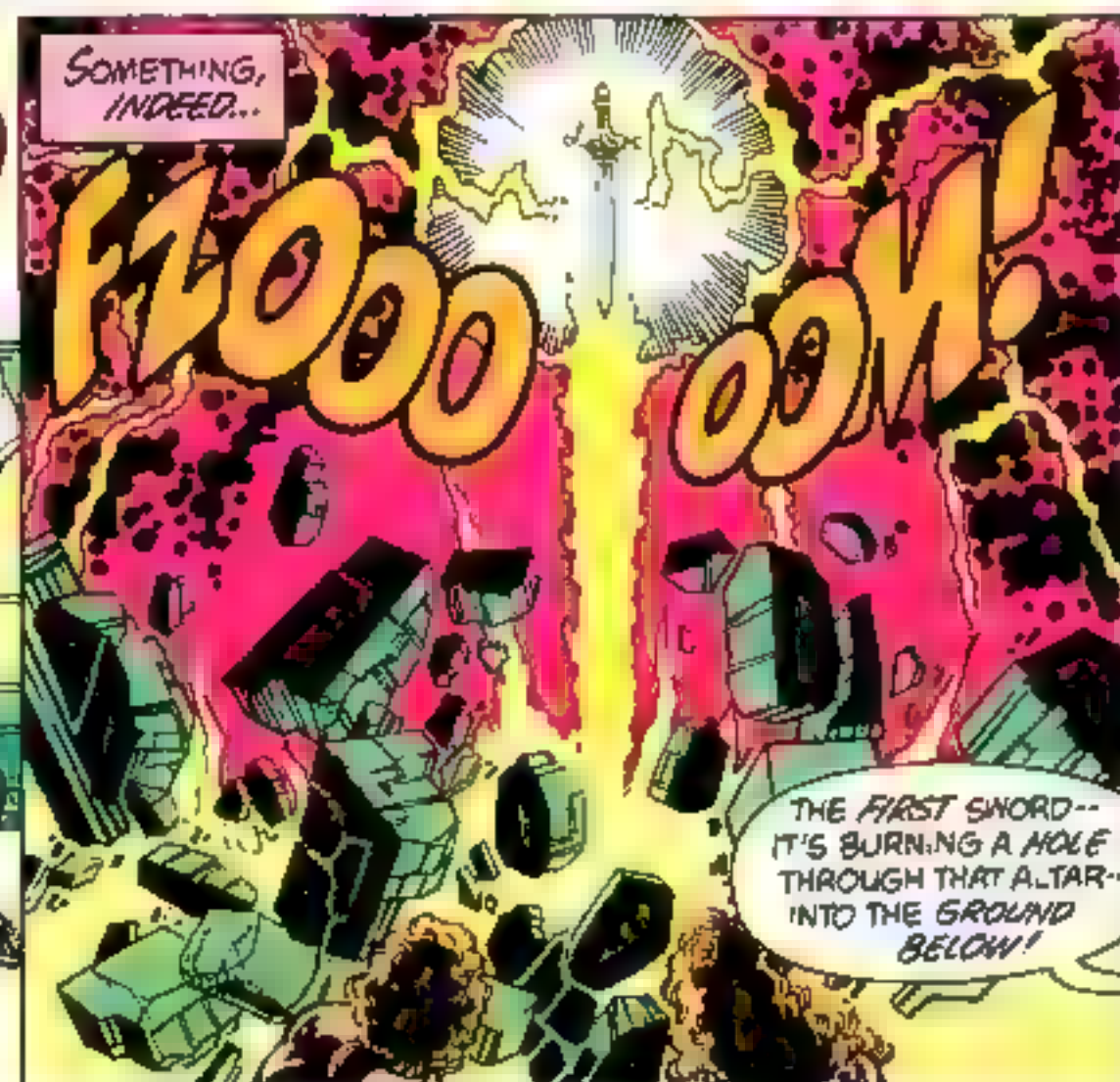
--THINGS?  
NOW, SOMETHING  
INEXPLICABLE  
OCCURS...



WHERE THERE  
WAS ONE  
BLADE, THERE  
NOW ARE THREE;  
THE ORIGINAL...  
AND TWO  
OTHERS.

THE METAL  
FEELS WARM  
TO THEIR  
TOUCH WARM,  
AND SOMEHOW  
ALIVE.

TORR,  
SOMETHING'S  
HAPPENING!



SOMETHING,  
INDEED...

FLOOO  
OOOM!

THE FIRST SWORD--  
IT'S BURNING A HOLE  
THROUGH THAT ALTAR--  
INTO THE GROUND  
BELOW!



QUICKLY!  
DON'T LET  
IT--

--FALL!

OH, TORR--  
WE'VE  
LOST IT!

YOU CANNOT  
LOSE THAT  
WHICH YOU  
NEVER  
POSSESSED,  
CHILD.

SWORDS  
YOU NOW  
HAVE--

--BUT THE  
TRUE SWORD  
WAS NOT  
YET YOURS.

WHAT HAVE  
YOU LEARNED  
IN THIS  
WORLD?

THAT BATTLES  
AREN'T ALWAYS  
WON BY  
VIOLENCE!

THEN YOU  
HAVE  
LEARNED  
WELL, AND  
HAVE BECOME  
WISE  
SEEKERS  
AS WELL AS  
SKILLFUL  
THIEVES.

BELOW LIES  
THE SECOND  
WORLD YOU  
MUST FACE,  
AS YOU  
CLAIM YOUR  
DESTINY.

IT TOO  
WILL  
CHALLENGE  
YOUR WITS,  
AND YOUR  
SKILL.

WILL  
YOU  
MEET  
THAT  
CHALLENGE?

WE'VE  
COME  
THIS FAR,  
MENTORR!

BY THE  
GODS, WE  
WON'T  
STOP NOW!



AND NEITHER  
WILL HERMINUS,  
FOOL--

--EVEN IF IT  
MEANS FOLLOWING  
TO THE VERY  
GATES OF HADES!

AND SO IT ENDS,  
WITH ANOTHER  
BEGINNING.

TORR, YOU MAY  
THINK I'M MAD,  
UNDER THE  
CIRCUMSTANCES,  
BUT A CHILL  
JUST RAN DOWN  
MY SPINE--

--AS IF,  
SOMEHOW,  
SOMEWHERE,  
WE WERE BEING  
WATCHED!

IN HIS  
CASTLE  
KEEP, THE  
WIZARD  
KONJURO  
SMILES.

IT IS A  
SMILE  
WITHOUT  
HUMOR...

...A SMILE LIKE  
THE GRIN OF  
DEATH!

TO BE CONTINUED -- IN **SWORDQUEST** BOOK TWO: **FIREWORLD!**







CO19251

